

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, August 15, 2013

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Robert returns

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Legend's shirt

Wolves remember Waggy with moving tribute

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Top coach of British athletics dies at 64

ONE of Britain's top athletics coaches has died in hospital in the Black Country after a long illness.

Roger Walters, who was 64, trained a host of leading runners and was the senior UK sprint coach at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

The string of athletes he helped to transform into world class sprinters included Cathy Cook, Sonia Lannaman and Mark Lewis Francis. Mr Walters was a leading sprinter himself in his youth and competed in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

He lived in Hospital Lane, Coseley with wife Jenny. The couple have a son Andrew and daughter Jayne.

Mr Walters had been suffering from a serious illness for around 18 months and passed away on Saturday.

He had coached at Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club where chairman Colin Thompson said: "He was a true gentleman as well as a great coach. The world of athletics will be upset by this terribly sad news."

Sprinter Annabelle Lewis, who was coached by Mr Walters and named in the British squad for the World Championships taking place in Moscow, said: "It was a very emotional time when I heard that I had been selected. I was absolutely ecstatic but also really sad for my coach. He was a remarkable man."

Railings man left injured

A MAN had to be rescued by firefighters after his leg was impaled on railings outside a Stourbridge church.

Crews were called to help the man who was stuck on the railings by St James's Church in Bridgnorth Road, Wollaton at just after 1.30am on Tuesday.

Firefighters from Stourbridge used a saw to cut through the metal post to free him. While the firefighters worked, ambulance staff provided pain relief to the man. After being cut free, he was taken to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley for further treatment.

POLICE DOG ATTACK PAYOUT FOR FAMILY

THE FAMILY of a boy who was attacked by a police dog in a back garden in Oldbury will receive compensation, West Midlands Police have revealed.

Tom Cutbill, aged 11, suffered serious wounds above and below the knee – one two-and-a-half inches wide – after the dog handler entered his grandmother's garden while looking for a metal thief.

Bosses at West Midlands Police Force said they were waiting to find out the extent of Tom's treatment before determining the sum to give to the family.

Tom, of Rowley Regis, was bitten on his right leg during the incident and had to have stitches.

Police had been called to Western Road to carry out a search following a report of a metal theft at Langley Green train station.

The German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois cross was helping search for the suspects in nearby New Henry Street and is believed to have followed Tom's uncle, Gareth Chappell, into the back garden in June. The dog was on a leash.

After the attack, West Midlands Police launched an investigation.

Police spokesman Pete Edney said: "The boy's injuries will be assessed at a future date to determine what, if any, further treatment he will receive."

After the attack Tom's grandmother Bev Bakewell,

by John Scott

52, of New Henry Street, said: "Tom was playing in the back garden fixing his scooter in the shed. I heard screaming and when I looked out the window there was a policeman out there with this great big dog which hold of Tom's leg."

After the attack police revealed both the officer and the German Shepherd, called Shadow, have been allowed to stay on duty.

Future

Police spokesman Pete Edney said: "The boy's injuries will be assessed at a future date by medical professionals to determine what, if any, further treatment he will receive. The amount of compensation will be dictated by the level of treatment he may need."

"Our investigation is ongoing, we have now received signed statements from the family as part of our enquiries."

Zoo marks hearty rise in visitors



Senior keeper Nicola Wright with the heart shape in the grass, to celebrate the rise in visitors at Dudley Zoo

STAFF at Dudley Zoo are celebrating after visitor numbers to the site soared again for the fifth year in a row. So pleased are they with the 'hearty increase' that they have cut a heart shape in the grass at the 40-acre site to show their appreciation.

Numbers show the zoo welcomed 120,000 visitors between January to July, compared with 103,000 for the same period in 2012 – a rise of 17 per cent.

Chief executive Peter Suddock said: "We've seen a steady year-on-year

increase now since 2008 and given the current economic climate this is marvellous. The big rises of double figure increases have come in the past two years and are due to investment across the site, rebranding and our website activity which has gained us access to a whole new market."

In the past decade more than £1 million has been spent across the site and a further £3.05 million is in place to fund a four-year programme of which work is already underway. Mr Suddock added: "Dudley Zoo pio-

neered the initial development of Castle Hill through its own funds – a rare situation in today's economy."

Recent developments include the new £200,000 offices, which opened in January this year. It was followed by the revamped reptile house, which had a £15,000 investment.

Mr Suddock said: "In the past decade we've won several major tourism awards, gained national and international recognition for conservation and research work and increased our membership."

Ex-mayor may face action on downloads

A FORMER Mayor of Dudley who admitted downloading pornography onto his council computer could be brought before the authority's standards committee over his conduct, it emerged today.

Long-standing Councillor Ray Burston is being investigated over his actions by officials from Dudley Council. He resigned his role last month as Conservative group spokesman for the environment after images downloaded from adult sites were found when repair work was carried out.

Dudley Council's chief executive John Polychronakis today confirmed an investigation was under way which will report back in the next few weeks.

A decision on whether to refer the matter to Dudley Council's audit and standards sub-committee in the autumn will follow shortly.

Mr Burston, who has sat on the council for 21 years during two stints, is continuing to serve as a councillor. He says he will donate his council members' allowances to the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

Dudley Council has adopted a Members' Code of Conduct.

The images were found on his laptop which should have been used only in relation to his council work. Councillor Ray Burston was unavailable for comment.

Wagstaffe's funeral date

THE funeral of former Wolves winger Dave Wagstaffe will take place on August 22, it was announced today.

The service is due at St Peter's Collegiate Church, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, at 12.30pm.

Wolves players wore black armbands at Saturday's opening home game against Gillingham, which they won 4-0 and captain Sam Rickards placed Waggy's number 11 shirt behind the goal at the North Bank.

● Golden – See Page 6

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£20m broadband deal

NEARLY 55,000 rural homes and businesses throughout Worcestershire – including Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley – will get superfast broadband after a £20 million deal was signed.

High-speed fibre broadband will be rolled out to more than 90 per cent of Worcestershire homes and businesses within the next three years. It follows the signing of a partnership agreement – 'Superfast

Worcestershire' – between Worcestershire County Council and BT, in which the authority will chip in up to £8.5m.

The initiative will build upon BT's commercial fibre rollout, which will reach more than 176,000 premises across the county by the end of Spring 2014. Simon Geraghty, the county council's deputy leader, said: "This investment is vital to our county's future economy."

Search for governor

BIRMINGHAM Children's Hospital is searching for a new public governor from the Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton areas.

The person elected will join the hospital's Council of Governors, who are elected by the public, patients, carers and staff to represent the views of their respective areas.

They can be anyone aged 16 or over who lives in Dudley, Walsall or

Wolverhampton and will join 26 others, who jointly have a say in decisions and hold the hospital's board of directors to account.

The council meets four times a year.

Elections for the unpaid role will be held in September.

Anybody interested should email the company secretary at foundation-trust.office@bch.nhs.uk by August 16.

Councillors reject taxi fares move

A PROPOSED hike in taxi fares across the Wyre Forest district has been rejected despite drivers' concerns over rising fuel costs and licence fees.

Plans to increase the Hackney Carriage fare tariff, the maximum amount drivers can charge for journeys, had been put forward by Bewdley Taxi Association. But at a meeting of Wyre Forest District Council's licensing and environment committee, members agreed there should be no increase in fares this year.

The decision was made despite 60 workers saying they were in favour of a change during a four-week consultation. Only 21 had said they were against the increase due to fears some passengers would struggle to afford a fare increase.

Officers had recommended members increase the flag fare to £2.80 for the first half mile plus a rise of 10p for each mile after. But the charge will now remain the same – a fare of £2.70 for the first half mile.

Former MP election bid

HEALTH campaigner and former MP Dr Richard Taylor has announced that he will stand in the next general election.

Dr Taylor, aged 79, who represented Wyre Forest, has decided to go on the campaign trail again due to his 'deep anger' over problems plaguing the NHS and his concern over government reforms.

He will campaign under the Independent Community and Health Concern banner.

However, he believes that voters are 'fed-up with the three main parties' and that given a real choice, people would realise that supporting someone else would not be a wasted vote.

Dr Taylor was Wyre Forest MP for two terms between 2001 and 2010.

Vicar gets ready for retirement

A POPULAR vicar who has been responsible for as many as 5,000 parishioners in north Worcestershire is preparing to retire.

Rev Peter Kerr, aged 67, arrived in Worcestershire in 1987 to take charge of St Andrew's at Ombersley and St Mary's Church at Doverdale. More latterly, he has also been the vicar at Hartlebury, and Bishops Wood near Stourport.

Owner is jailed after dog bit a neighbour

A MAN whose bull terrier bit a woman neighbour in front of her teenage daughter has been jailed – and had his hopes of becoming a professional breeder dashed by a ban on keeping dogs.

But Daniel Davies's pregnant Staffordshire bull terrier-type dog Gucci has escaped a destruction order after Dudley Magistrates Court heard it bit the victim only after being kicked while being walked on a playing field.

Wildcat at zoo is blood donor used in research

A WILDCAT at Dudley Zoo has donated blood as part of an international research project. But the sample from 18-year-old Geoffroy's cat Bart was collected by three blood-sucking bugs instead of the usual needle approach.

The research project was carried out by veterinary medical student, Maïke Kunze, from Oldenburg in Germany, who has been collecting samples from wildcats in 13 other zoos in the UK and a further 40 across Europe since 2011.

The non-invasive procedure lasted for just under one hour, with each Triatominae bug taking up to 20 minutes to fill up on Bart's blood. Once full, Maïke syringed the blood directly from the bugs' stomachs, before sending the sample back to a laboratory in Berlin, where it will be genetically analysed.

The parasite can cause Toxoplasmosis, a common infection that occurs in most birds and mammals, including humans. The disease can cause serious complications for pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems.

Davies, aged 30, of The Farthings, Dudley, admitted allowing Gucci to be dangerously out of control near his home, between Stourbridge Road and Junction Street, and was jailed for 12 weeks.

The court heard he had two breeding pairs of Presa Canario dogs – a type originally from the Canary Islands – and a litter of eight puppies that were bound for new homes as he planned to come off benefits to breed and sell the animals.

But District Judge David Miller, who heard Davies had previous offences including robbery, threatening violence, possessing cannabis and being drunk on a railway station, told him he was not a 'fit person' to have dogs and banned him from keeping them for two years.

He also made an order 'depriving' Davies of Gucci, who was taken in by the RSPCA after the incident, but said he would not make an order to destroy the animal, who is pregnant.

Miss Amy Jackson, defending, immediately said he would appeal to the crown court against the sentence – but the judge refused to suspend the jail term or ban pending a new hearing.

Mrs Meloney Hughes, prosecuting, said Gucci was off the lead, approached a woman and her daughter and tried to attack their dog, a Doberman puppy, on February 3. The daughter kicked Gucci, who then bit her mother at the top of the leg, tearing her jeans and piercing her skin.

Museum plan for tunnel network



Paul Stokes and Peter Rhodes in one of the passages, which may be part of a museum

AN HISTORIC network of underground tunnels excavated during the Second World War is to be turned into a museum, under ambitious new plans.

Drakelow Tunnels, between Kinver and Wolverley, was used to manufacture parts for the war effort and would have been used as a regional seat of government in the event of nuclear attack.

Site owners Quercus Ilex SA want to turn the site into a museum with exhibitions of the tunnels' original war-time layout together with displays of how the area would have reacted to atomic attack.

But 'a great amount of investment' is needed to make the scheme a reality and restore the tunnels to the point where the museum could be created.

Plans for the museum at the site have now been submitted to Wyre Forest District Council along with proposals for a single-storey visitor centre and six houses. Cash generated from the development and sale of the houses would fund work needed on the tunnels.

If approved, the museum would create full and part-time jobs in the area.



The entrance to the Drakelow tunnels

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Reopened road joy after wall finished

A BUSY road through Sedgley which was partially closed for five months while a historic wall was rebuilt has reopened ahead of schedule.

Dudley Council has completed the £243,000 project in Gospel End Street where a historic wall has also been created.

The route had been shut since March but reopened last Thursday – more than a week earlier than expected.

The original wall was demolished and a new one built further back from the road to make space for a footpath. Some of the stonework from the previous wall has been reused in the new structure.

But the new wall is still made entirely of Gornal stone like the earlier one.

The council said it would make it safer for people walking to work and pupils walking to nearby schools. It followed repairs to the wall in 2009 following a minor collapse. The old wall was believed to date back more than 100 years.

Ward councillor Michael Evans today welcomed the completion of the scheme.

"It is an absolutely fantastic job. I have been following its progress since the very beginning," he said.

The work was carried out as part of the council's safer routes to school programme, which aims to improve road safety in the borough, particularly in streets used by parents and children walking to school.

Green light for parking

PLANS to create extra parking spaces in a Black Country High Street have been approved.

Dudley's cabinet member for transport – Councillor Khurshid Ahmed has given the go-ahead for proposals to convert existing 'loading only' spaces into parking spots in Lye.

Traders and councillors have called for the council to provide more parking for people visiting the shops.

Four new spaces will be created in the High Street. The scheme is expected to cost around £2,000.

Chairman of Lye Community Association and former Lye and Wollescote ward councillor Abdul Qadeer welcomed the move, saying it would be a boost for businesses in the town.

Last post for many with disappearing boxes



Councillor Pat Martin campaigned to get a postbox back in Vicarage Road, Amblecote

MORE than 80 post boxes have been lost across the Black Country and surrounding areas during the last five years, according to figures obtained by the Express & Star.

In the DY postal region, which mainly covers Dudley and north Worcestershire, Bewdley was the area most affected, having lost seven post boxes since 2008. Kidderminster and Tipton lost two each.

Val Boddan of Royal Mail said: "We are proud that with our extensive network of over 115,000 post boxes, the UK has the highest level of post box provision per square kilometre of any western European nation."

Robert Hammond of the watchdog body Consumer Futures, called for a transparent and robust consultative process for post box changes that ensures people knew when a post box was going to be removed or relocated, and also gave them the opportunity to make a case for reversing the decision.

A post box in Vicarage Road, Amblecote, near Stourbridge, was removed by Royal Mail two years ago after being hit by a spate of thefts. Two of the boxes, which had been mounted on telegraph poles, had been stolen, and Royal Mail said a decision had been made to remove due to the number of thefts and the number of other boxes in the

Stourbridge area. After a concerted campaign by residents, backed by Councillors Mrs Liz Walker and Mrs Pat Martin, the box was reinstated earlier this year. But Councillor Walker said it was hard work getting it reinstated. "They're always quick to take them out, but they don't put many back," she said.

Five years ago, the WV1 postcode area which covers central Wolverhampton had 33 post boxes, but five of these have now gone. The rest of the WV postal area, which also takes in Wombourne and Coseley, has lost a net total of 10 post boxes over the last five years.

Ex guilty of trying to kill woman in petrol fireball

A MAN who poured petrol on his ex-girlfriend before setting her alight and turning her into a human 'fireball' has been found guilty of attempted murder.

Damion Sheldon went round to Louise Pilkington's Rowley Regis home with a can of petrol in the early hours of December 2. He had told the jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court, last week, that he intended to kill himself in front of her as he struggled to get over the break-up of their relationship.

The jury, however, took just three-and-a-half hours to find that he had gone to the house on Haden Walk intending to kill her, pouring petrol through her letterbox and then dousing her in it when she came to the door to see what was going on. Witnesses described seeing her burn 'like a fireball' after she was set alight.

Judge John Warner who had presided over the six-day trial warned 42-year-old Sheldon to expect a 'long period' in jail when he is sentenced in September.

During the trial, Mr Hugh O'Brien Quinn had told the jury how Sheldon had sent Miss Pilkington four text messages in the 24 hours before he went to her house, some of a threatening nature, as he tried to get her to speak with him.

After celebrating his birthday on December 1 by drinking the best part of three litres of cider, vodka and a few pints of lager, he had taken the petrol can and a claw-hammer to Miss Pilkington's home just after midnight.

Neighbours told jurors how Miss Pilkington had run onto her neighbour's front lawn, taken her night clothes off and rolled on the grass in an effort to quell the flames.

One neighbour, Nathan Parsons, throwing a bowl of water over Miss Pilkington and later described in a police statement how her skin 'sizzled' when the water hit it.

She suffered burns to 15 to 16 per cent of her body, needing skin grafts and causing scarring on her arms. Miss Pilkington told the jury during the trial that the pain was 'like I'd never felt before'.

A nine-year-old child in the house at the time managed to escape while a 13-month-old baby was rescued by Oldbury firefighter Nathan Carter. The house was badly damaged by fire.

by Sharon Marrs

Storage company to star on screen



Customer service adviser Carly Biles and storage centre manager Scott Millington outside the premises in Netherton

A STORAGE company will take centre stage in a television series aimed at helping people to clear out clutter.

Anchor Self-Storage, in Netherton, was chosen to take part in the latest series of ITV1 show Storage Hoarders.

Filming for the series, hosted by former How Clean is Your House? presenter Aggie MacKenzie, took place earlier this year and the show will be broadcast from Monday.

Bosses at the firm, based in New

Road, were delighted when one of their customers was chosen to take part in the show. The series encourages people clinging on to items they have placed in storage and never use to clear out their clutter.

As part of the filming, antiques expert Paul Hayes visited the company to pick through the items in storage and find any which could then go under the hammer and be sold at auction. Items which are of no value and the owners no longer want are thrown

away. And the film crew enjoyed working at the Black Country firm so much they asked if they could film other parts of the series there.

Manager Scott Millington said: "We were contacted by the production company to see if any of our customers would be interested in taking part in the TV show. We were absolutely delighted."

The company will feature in the show in episodes to be broadcast on August 14, 15, 20 and 21.

NEWS in brief

Parks groups in council awards

FRIENDS of parks groups and other volunteers from across Dudley have been rewarded for their dedication at an awards ceremony.

Dudley Council's parks development team held the sixth annual Green Spaces Volunteer Awards to thank the many volunteers who make a big difference to green spaces in the borough.

The Epic Events and Activities Award went to the Friends of Cotwall End Valley Local Nature Reserve (CEV) for their regular volunteer task groups and guided walks. The Friends of CEV also picked up the Wild! Biodiversity Awards for their contribution to the wildlife friendly maintenance of the site.

Problem of yobbs is put on agenda

POLICE and parish councillors in Kinver have met to discuss a long-term solution to anti-social behaviour incidents in the village.

Although it has one of the lowest levels of anti-social behaviour in the county, they are working to reduce the number even further. During the last year, there have been 18 complaints involving noise and vehicle nuisance and 23 about rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour.

Councillors have since formed an action group. Anyone with concerns should speak to local officers by ringing the non-emergency 101 number.

Multi-use games area plan agreed

PLANS to create a multi-use games area at a school have been approved, despite objections from residents living near the site.

Under the proposals, the facility would be built at Summerhill School in Lodge Road, Kingswinford.

It would measure 177ft long by 128ft wide and existing grass areas will also be covered in Tarmac or hard playing surfaces for games such as basketball.

Meeting to hear residents' views

RESIDENTS in Stourbridge can air their views at a public meeting next month. It will be hosted by police from the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town neighbourhood team.

The meeting will take place at St Thomas's Church Hall in Market Street, Stourbridge on September 11, at 7pm.

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IT AIN'T my dog. My dog got stolen last week. I sold it years ago. The law on dogs that kill may be toughened up to include life sentences but killer-dog owners are not blessed with much in the way of brains and will already be rehearsing their excuses. They come from the same thicko segment of the underclass which chucks bricks off motorway bridges or steals signalling wire from railways and is surprised when a crash ensues. Worst of all, the new dog laws will be reactive. First we must wait until the slavering beast that everyone in the street knows is a potential killer actually kills someone. Better by far to pick up Chummy and his attack dog before any damage is done, identify it as a menace and have it destroyed. The dog, that is, not the owner. Mind you . . .

□□□□□□□□

AFTER playing the foul-mouthed Malcolm Tucker in *The Thick of It*, Peter Capaldi is the new star of the BBC's longest-running sci-fi drama. Forthcoming episodes include *Dr Who* and the ****ting Daleks, *Dr Who Gives the Cybermen a right ****ting Pasting* and *Dr Who Kicks Seven Sorts of **** out of those Stone Angels*.

□□□□□□□□

WE NOW have almost 800 members of the House of Lords - more old bottoms than red benches to accommodate them. Packing pensioners into a chamber so small is surely a form of elder abuse. The time has come for peers to be appointed not for life but for five or 10 years. After that they could keep the title but hang up their ermine, clear out of Westminster and make space for another backside.

□□□□□□□□

A SURVEY finds that a quarter of parents let their children aged 12-15 try alcohol on holiday. Fleet Street's finest have been debating whether this is a wise way to introduce kids to booze or plain irresponsible. I bet in some cases it's the old parent-as-chum syndrome in which Mum and Dad want to be regarded not as proper grown-ups but as their kids' best pals. We've all seen them, and what a ridiculous sight they are. "We're more like sisters, really," says Mum, buying her 12-year-old daughter a T-shirt with the slogan "Porn Star" and pouring a couple of pina colodas down her neck.

□□□□□□□□

NICK Hower of The Apprentice memorably dismissed Ed Miliband as "tall, arrogant, weak handshake." Now, the Canadian comedian Stewart Francis says Miliband reminds him of "a security guard who's just heard a noise in the warehouse." Once such images are planted in the public mind they are desperately hard to erase.

Protesters regroup for new plan to flatten pub

CAMPAIGNERS have launched a new petition against fresh plans to demolish a Halesowen pub after being told their previous 700-name list would no longer count.

Punch Taverns has submitted new proposals to flatten the Swan pub in Long Lane to make way for a shop.

Hundreds of people had signed a petition calling for a rethink on the plans which would see the pub replaced with a single-storey building. The scheme had sparked concerns over traffic safety and potential impact on neighbours.

Punch Taverns withdrew the proposals that had been lodged with Dudley Council but a week later resubmitted them.

Now Councillor Jeff Hill, who has been leading the campaign, said they had been forced to start collecting signatures again after learning the existing petition would not be considered as the council says each new application has to be considered on its own merits.

Another

"We've started a new petition because I have spoken to the planning officer and been told the first one would no longer be valid. We are concerned that people who wrote letters of objection the first time will not know that they need to write another one." Copies of the petition have been distributed to local shops in the area.

Dudley Council spokesman Phil Parker said: "In accordance with The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995, each new planning application has to be considered on its own merits. As such, representations cannot be carried over from a previous application to a new application." The Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) has already lodged an objection to the new plans.

Hard work pays off for slimline Tracey



Then - Tracey Foster weighed 28st and was a size 28

WEIGHING in at 28 stones and with a size 28 wardrobe, Tracey Foster knew it was time for drastic action. But when her GP suggested a gastric bypass to help her shift the pounds, she decided surgery wasn't for her and that she'd do it the hard way.

Now, less than two years later and after transforming her diet and lifestyle with the support of husband Scott, son Luke, 18, and 16-year-old daughter Charlotte, she is now a healthy 12st.

The 40-year-old, from Brickhouse Road in Rowley Regis, said: "I wanted to do it all myself and so decided to do it through dieting." Her doctor referred her to her nearest WeightWatchers at



Now - Tracey has lost 15st in under two years

the Blackheath Coronation Social Club in George Avenue.

"When I first started Weight-Watchers I just sat quietly at the back with my coat on," she said.

Tracey now sticks to a healthy diet eating three balanced meals a day, and has more than halved her dress size - fitting in to a size eight top and size 12 bottoms.

Limestone grassland set to be restored

A PROJECT to restore rare limestone grassland on Sedgley Beacon will get under way in the autumn, it was announced today.

Funding has been secured to carry out the work aimed at encouraging wildlife to the area. The site is popular with walkers as it provides panoramic views across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

As part of the project, overgrown areas will be cut back to provide more space for wildflowers which in turn will attract pollinating insects and other wildlife such as birds and small mammals. The work will be carried out in two phases, with the first starting this autumn and the second in autumn 2014.

Dudley Council was recently awarded funding from the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country to improve the grassland.

When the quarry was abandoned, nature took over and its geology has enabled some rare and interesting colonies of plants to grow.

Golfing day due

A fundraising day will be held in aid of a Stourbridge advice centre. The golf day will take place at Little Lakes Golf Club in Bewdley on Saturday. Around 40 golfers are due to take part in a tournament in aid of The What? Centre. For details call 01384 379992.

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From here we cross the second of Scotland's grand rail bridges the 'Tay Bridge', which is over 2 miles in length affording passengers further spectacular views of Tayside and the 'Kingdom of Fife' at a fairly sedate speed. A break of up to around 2 hours is taken at Dundee. The station is handy for the main amenities. Dundee's most famous attraction is the research ship 'Discovery', the very ship in which Captain Scott and Ernest Shackleton sailed to Antarctica.

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Mayor in thanks for donation

THE mayor of Dudley has praised his borough's Muslim community after a £1,000 donation to his charities.

Councillor Alan Finch visited Dudley's Central Mosque to join in their Grand Iftar – an event marking the breaking of the fast which Muslims take part in throughout the month of Ramadan.

The mosque community handed over £1,000 to Councillor Finch for his charities, which are White House Cancer Support and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Councillor Finch said: "This is a wonderful donation and I thank the members of the mosque community for their kind-hearted gesture."

Mosque chairman Mohammed Aurangzeb said: "The Muslim community donate through the year to many good causes and Ramadan sees increased generosity to the poor and those less fortunate than themselves."

MP Williamson backs changes

A £50,000 PROJECT to refurbish Kinner High Street has been welcomed by South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson.

Mr Williamson called the revamp a victory for local campaigners and traders, who claimed that the existing layout introduced in 2011, had led to a significant fall in trade. He said: "I think everyone is absolutely delighted."

Devoted son remains on the trail of mother's special ring

A DEVOTED son is trying to trace a ring worn by his mother which he fears could have been stolen just days before her death.

David Siviter first became aware the treasured item was missing when a cousin pointed it out to him following the death of his mother, May, on September 12, 2001.

A thorough search of the address he and his mother shared in Woodsetton failed to turn up the ring – and, at the time, Mr Siviter put it down to simply being lost.

But after finding a picture of his mother wearing the ring five years later, the 76-year-old vowed to find the jewellery which had meant so much to her.

And the former second-hand car dealer said he now believes it could have been stolen and, if so, hoped someone would recognise the piece and return it.

Mr Siviter said his mother had purchased the 18-carat, three-stone gold diamond ring at the Jewellery Quarter, in Birmingham, in 1965 and had worn it every day since.

"My mother died just three weeks before her 93rd birthday. I did not notice the ring was gone until it was pointed out to me by a cousin," he said. "We turned the house upside down and inside out to see if we could find it but it did not show up and at the time there was an awful lot to do."

"I believe it could have

by Louise Jew

been stolen. If that is the case it would have happened very close to her death which is awful.

"She was very well until the end. However it means someone may know where it is and may recognise it."

Mr Siviter said his mother had been a newsagent in Tipton for more than 20 years between 1949 and 1971 and had proved so successful she had been able to extend the business.

The shop based in Park Lane East, and called Siviter's, was well-known in the community for many years. He said: "My mother was a very determined and hard-working person. It is not easy running a business like that – you are committed to it seven days a week."

Mr Siviter and his brother were raised by their mother after she split from their father in the 1930s. My mother came from Dudley. She raised us on her own at the same time as running the business successfully."

● People who can help Mr Siviter are asked to call him on 01902 883239.



David Siviter, of Dawlish Road, Dudley, who is determined to find his late mother's diamond ring, missing for 12 years

Kings of business have it all wrapped up

BLACK Country brothers Ben and Will Hamblin proved themselves the best in the UK at creating customised advertisement artwork for vehicles.

The pair, who started their Cradley business Wrap Kings six years ago, took part in a vehicle wrap master competition at the Federation of European Screen Printers Association's sign trade show at the ExCel London Exhibition Centre. The firm entered the

Sign and Digital Show awards for the first time in 2012 and finished runner up in the vehicle wrap category in competition with firms across the country.

Wrap Kings also offers a service to provide carbon fibre for car bonnets and roofs. Customers come to Wrap Kings with artwork and the business offers a three to five-day service to produce it and fit it.

In the UK heats Will, aged 26, and

Ben, 24, finished top team and qualified for the world final in which they finished fourth. Will was second in the UK in the individual section and seventh in the world.

Wrap Kings is based in Maypole Fields, Cradley Enterprise Centre.

They employ one other worker in the business. Examples of the brothers' work is featured on their website www.wrapkings.co.uk

NEWS

in brief

Sailing ahead for finding new talent

THE search is on for Britain's next Olympic sailing star following the launch of a scheme to encourage more children to take part in the sport.

Himley Hall Sailing Club, based in the grounds of Himley Hall, off Dudley Road, has signed up to a flagship grassroots scheme run by the national governing body the Royal Yachting Association.

It will see low-cost sailing and windsurfing opportunities for nearby school and youth groups. For details visit www.himleyhallsc.org.uk

UKIP's Etheridge joins with Farage

DUDLEY and Halesowen UKIP chairman Bill Etheridge will join his party's leader Nigel Farage at a rally in Telford. Mr Etheridge, who heads UKIP's Campaign against Political Correctness, will be among the hosts of the event, to be attended by Mr Farage, at The International Centre, St Quentin Gate, Telford on September 5.

Flood of hopefuls try for pet posts

HUNDREDS of jobseekers applied for just 11 posts at a pet store opening at Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre next month.

More than 400 people went for the jobs at Pets at Home, which has invested £459,000 in a store, due to open on September 13, which will take over part of the premises occupied by Mothercare.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

WHAT is up with the people of the West Midlands? The first half-decent summer in years, and suddenly there is an outbreak of rampant nudism. Last week it was an application for a nude reading group in Dudley library, this week it is a naturist bar at an hotel in Erdington.

Regarding the latter proposal, Councillor Robert Alden fears it would attract teenagers and troublemakers, and lead to 'a rise in inappropriate behaviour and displays of flesh'.

Really? Do you get teenage nudists? I always assumed, based on reports in all the good tabloids, you understand, that all naturists were at least 60 years old, had bulging beer guts, and were preferably German.

While the scenario outlined by Councillor Alden seems a tad far-fetched, it would at least make for a few laughs.

Who would stop all these teenage nudist troublemakers from gatecrashing? Maybe they would need to hire some naked bouncers, but where would they hang their walkie talkies? Still, there would be no need to frisk anyone on the door.

Hotel owner Tim Higgs says the councillor had completely misunderstood the proposals, saying he only wants to serve drinks on the lawn.

"It is a spa, a respectful, quality establishment for naturists, not a pub. You can't just come in off the street," he says, adding that councillors were free to visit the premises whenever they wished. Sounds like a site visit to me.

Still, this seems positively normal compared to the application for a nude reading group at Dudley library. Why would anyone want to spend their weekends in a public library reading paperbacks in the buff? In what should surely have been flagged up in a section marked 'too much detail', the group said they would be bringing their own towels to keep the furniture clean.

NICE to see that the Spanish Government has shown calm and restraint in the debate about Gibraltar's sovereignty.

After Spain brought its border with Gibraltar to a standstill with a range of checks and controls not seen since the days of Franco, the British Government has responded with a threat of legal action.

The Royal Navy is now sending warships to the Mediterranean, while Spain is threatening to gang up with Argentina by supporting its stance over the Falklands. If that is not enough, the Spanish town of Candelera has named one of its streets after, ahem, John Major. This one is going to get very ugly indeed.

MEANWHILE, over at the Edinburgh fringe festival, playwright Kevin Toolis unveils his latest work, a political satire entitled The Confessions of Gordon Brown. And no, it doesn't star Robin Askwith.



Dave in a car driven by pal Davey Jones



The star winger, third from left, when Wolves won the League Cup in 1974



Dave signs memorabilia a reunion dinner

Old golden wonder Waggy's glory days

MARTIN SWAIN takes an affectionate look back at the life and times of Wolves favourite Dave Wagstaffe, who died last week at 70

THERE are some footballers who just have it, who capture that part of us which will forever be childlike in our appreciation, who give the beautiful game the wonder that captures our hearts.

Dave Wagstaffe was one of those men. He was not Wolves' most successful player. Waggy won a promotion, a League Cup, and a runners-up medal from the now defunct UEFA Cup.

Nor could we say he was the club's greatest, not with a cast-list of such celebrated figures who piled up championships and international caps. But Waggy was that little bit special; a footballer who for a generation of fans – and not necessarily just of gold and black persuasion – brought the promise of something exciting, something different and magical to their Saturday afternoons.

He was right for the times, of course. The Christmas of 1964 brought him to Molineux and I Feel Fine was No.1 to provide a fitting signature launch to a Wolves career perfectly tailored to the changing mood of a nation caught up in the excitement of that decade.

He was a maverick, a scamp, a bit of old-fashioned working class kid of the street realising that the old days of deference were coming to an end. Even Bill McGarry, a manager he disliked and who evoked the same sternness that Stan Cullis brought to Molineux's corridors, turned a blind eye to Waggy's infamous fag in the toilets just before kick-off and usually at half time.

But perhaps the spirit and magic of



Wolves legend Waggy in action against Arsenal's Brendon Batson in 1973

Dave Wagstaffe is best captured in the recollections from a pal who spent his formative years in wide-eyed wonder at the winger who could send the North Bank the wrong way with one drop of his shoulder.

Recalling his debut against Aston Villa, he recalled: "Of course, this was in the days before Twitter or Facebook had even been thought of never mind invented and we turned up at Molineux on Boxing Day for the Villa game when they announced over the tannoy: 'And at No.11 today, a change from the programme for Wolves, Dave Wagstaffe.'"

"I can still hear the murmur that

went round the ground. You can't imagine it now but that was the first we heard about it. I think they had only signed him that morning.

"I remember it so well because it would be the day one great Wolves career ended – Peter Broadbent played his last game – and another began. Because Waggy stepped out and held us spellbound that day and for the next 10 years. The pitch was frosty and hard as you can imagine but what balance – and his left foot was just magical. Mystical. Such a left foot. 'Wagstaffe – Dougan – Richards – goal!' We seemed to hear that all the time over the next 10 years."

His finest performance, many reckoned, came in that away leg of the 1972 UEFA Cup final when that faultless left foot gave Wolves hope of overturning the decisive defeat in the home leg against Spurs with a quite stunning goal. Bill Nicholson, the double-winning legendary Tottenham manager, admitted afterwards the better team had lost and that Waggy had frightened the life out of him.

And there were the escapades and stories to go with his vibrant football, of course, vividly captured by the man himself in his autobiography 'Waggy's Tales'.

Remember that summer tour to the States where the team played as 'Los Angeles Wolves' in a mini-season and word came back that the left winger was quitting the game to become – of all things – road manager to The Monkees?

Illuminate

It wasn't that far from truth either as the American pop band's lead singer, Dave Jones, was a schoolboy friend from Waggy's Manchester upbringing and the Wolves footballer was half tempted with a rock star lifestyle. Of course he was. But thankfully, he stayed to illuminate the first half of the Seventies before drifting into a retirement that, shorn of the millionaire's pile a player of his calibre would earn today, took him back to his own folk.

He ran a hotel in Blackpool, returned to this city to run pubs in Bushbury and Castlecroft and, naturally, Waggy's Bar at Molineux.

His final appearance at Molineux was to receive his induction to the club's Hall of Fame. As a member of the committee charged with the task of nominations, I won't be alone in thanking providence we got to him in the nick of time.

It was clear from that evening's reception just how cherished he is and always will be in the hearts and minds of Wolves fans.

● To view the Express & Star's last video with Waggy at the Hall of Fame Dinner in January click on www.expressandstar.com

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A TEENAGER from Tettenhall went to mow the meadow – and ended up in the canal. Richard Rochelle was cutting the grass on a Black Country industrial estate when his motor mower careered down a bank into the water.

CANDIDATES in the Bilston East by-election were hard at work helping people at opposite ends of the age scale. Conservative candidate Peter Hazeldine sorted out a road surface wrangle for elderly residents, while Liberal-SDP Alliance representative Ann Nightingale opened a playground for youngsters.

AN Oldbury father and son ended up in beds next to each other at hospital on the same day. Thomas O'Connor was taken to Sandwell District General Hospital after complaining of stomach pains, where he was joined by son, Stephen, who was having his appendix removed.

1993...

AN iron horse almost sparked a stampede scare after a train passenger mistook a sculpture for the real thing. Police launched a search after an elderly woman reported seeing a charging horse near the line at Coseley.

STARS from the Midlands music scene turned out in force to pay tribute to a Kingswinford musician who co-founded pop group The Wonder Stuff. Members of Pop Will Eat Itself and Ned's Atomic Dustbin were amongst 60 mourners who paid tribute to Rob Jones at St Mary's Church in Kingswinford.

A NEWLYWED from Wolverhampton was facing six months away from her American husband because US officials refused to allow her to enter the country. Leesa Alexander was told she would have to wait for her immigration papers to be processed.

2003...

A FOOTBALL-MAD Tipton teenager snapped up the world record for having his photograph taken with the most players. Aston Villa fan Thomas Gill made the Guinness Book of Records after having his picture taken with 510 players, including David Beckham and Alan Shearer.

WOLVES fans besieged the Molineux hotline for tickets for the game against Manchester United at Old Trafford – only to be left on hold for hours after a switchboard breakdown.

SPECIAL transport was laid on in Wolverhampton to help A-level students attend classes in city schools and colleges. The scheme was aimed at increasing learning opportunities for the city's students.

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LETTERS

Telling words must not be forgotten

"WE MUST make sure that nothing like this can ever happen again." How many times have we heard these words coming from the mouths of so-called social workers in the past decade.

I use the words 'so-called' deliberately, with no intention of maligning the well-meaning and well-trained social workers who, on the whole, do excellent work throughout the country.

But I can't help noticing that all too often in the sad cases such as that of little Daniel Pelka, who was so cruelly beaten and starved to death by his own mother and her partner, far too many of the social workers seem to me to be

little more than schoolchildren themselves.

That's not to say that young men and women can't do very useful work within the social services.

However, I do feel that where there is a case for a child or children to be put under the supervision of social services that a more mature woman, of say middle age would be much more likely to spot the tell-tale signs so sadly missed by the younger generations of schoolteachers, social workers, and yes, even overlooked by the police.

Can anyone imagine a woman in her middle years and having raised her own family failing to notice that there was

something drastically amiss with Daniel? Failed to notice that he was continually foraging for scraps of food in the dustbins, failed to notice that he was stealing from his classmates' lunchboxes, I very much doubt it.

Social service personnel who are given the honour of looking after the welfare of children must be men and women who have experience of life especially of the not-so-simple task of rearing a family. I suppose the best we can hope for is that this time we can indeed 'make sure that nothing like this can ever happen again'.

B PARSONS,
Millard Road, Coseley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle
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Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Excellence of family's treatment

IN RESPONSE to Mr Etheridge's letter, I feel I must write about my experience of Russells Hall Hospital.

My daughter was diagnosed with Crohns Disease 13 years ago and as a result has had numerous stays as well as ongoing treatment and consultation there.

My husband was admitted as a day case patient for surgery and my other daughter has had two children in the maternity ward. Not one of them suffered neglect or maltreatment and in fact I can only describe the service as outstanding.

All the staff involved including doctors, nurses and other non-medical staff were attentive and friendly and could not do more to make everyone's stay as comfortable as possible.

Whilst Mr Etheridge is collecting horror stories for his dossier can I suggest that an appeal is made for positive ones as well?

PAT TAYLOR
Howley Grange Road
Halesowen

Where were friends before bingo move?

YOU have to ask yourself where were the Friends of the Dudley Hippodrome when it succumbed to ignominy of being turned into a bingo hall, and before it finally shut its doors some four years or so ago?

Until the Council put forward plans to demolish it and reportage appeared in the press I had no idea this body even existed. The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, want this decision to be reversed and if I am right, they want the building made over to them for restoration.

It was a Vaudeville theatre once, an anachronism now and like many theatres in provincial towns, modern times, lack of patronage and costs obviously overtook it. Fortunately in the borough there are town halls and theatre venues that provide theatrical tastes to suit everyone's taste.

The building in question is decrepit, but to give it away as Friends of the Dudley Hippodrome suggests is ludicrous. You can be pretty sure that in the great scheme of things that somewhere along line there would be requests for loans or grants from the taxpayer's purse. Better and more rewarding developments for the site can be found.

JOHN B WALDRON, Allan Close, Stourbridge

Selling off NHS

IS THERE anything this Tory government won't privatise? It was quietly announced that they had sold off the blood transfusion and plasma service to an American firm which was founded by Mitt Romney the Republican friend of Cameron.

The fiasco of the privately run 111 service and the closure of A&E departments are other examples of this government's dogmatic road to full privatisation of the NHS, yet some people still believe our mendacious PM.

BRENDON BURGESS
Birmingham Road
Dudley

Let them earn

I HAVE a lovely 16 year old grandson and he attends Halesowen College on flexi-hours. Like most of our teenagers they need a bit of money to buy bits and bobs.

We all know these are expensive times for parent, so I would love to bring back the Saturday jobs we used to have years ago. My two daughters both had Saturday jobs and loved it. Let's give these kids a chance in life to work for a living.

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Man jailed after vicious attack on ex-girlfriend

Steve strides out for scouts

A MAN who cowardly attacked his ex-partner in front of her daughter has been jailed for 16 months.

Arthur Duffy, aged 31, of Occupation Street, Netherton, kicked his ex-partner Nicola Ferry in the chest causing her lung to collapse.

The attack happened in front of Miss Ferry's nine-year-old daughter in the couple's living room and caused damage to her ribs.

Trouble started after the couple came home from a night out drinking. When Duffy asked Miss Ferry for a hug, she declined and an argument followed, resulting in Duffy becoming violent and dragging her into the living room by her hair.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "Mr Duffy kicked Miss Ferry hard in her left side as well as in her face and the side of her mouth, which caused her to start bleeding.

Collapsed

"This happened in front of her nine-year-old daughter who started crying.

"Miss Ferry put her to bed but when she returned the argument continued and Mr Duffy said he would 'knife her and put her in the cellar'."

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Miss Ferry suffered a collapsed lung, which had to be inflated and she spent one night in hospital.

Mr Bernard Porter, defending, said: "Alcohol is the catalyst which caused Mr Duffy to behave in."

Duffy was handed a 16-month custodial sentence, a restraining order and was told to pay a victim surcharge of £100 by Recorder Mr Nigel Daly who told him: "People can be killed by being kicked in the face the way you did to Miss Ferry.



Steve Allmark who has completed a 150-mile walk to help fund a new floor

A man who has attended the same Scout group for 21 years has walked more than 150 miles to buy it some new flooring.

Steve Allmark, aged 27, joined the 1st Quarry Bank Scouts as a beaver aged just six, and is still there today as an assistant cub scout leader and group secretary.

After raising cash for the group last year by abseiling down the side of Dudley Castle, this year Steve, from

Foxdale Drive in Brierley Hill, wanted to take on a tougher challenge.

And on July 1 he started walking the two-and-a-half miles to and from work at Eon on High Street in Kingswinford, where he works in the office, every day for a month.

He has now raised £1,241 pledged in donations, which will go towards buying new vinyl flooring for the group.

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NEWS

Petal power brought to the fore with contest bid



Councillor Hilary Bills and Amanda Hodgetts, from the Cornbow Centre, Councillor David Vickers, Kim Olander of Sandvik, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed and Steve Fitzpatrick, chairman of Chamber of Trade, with some blooms

A TOWN centre is blooming thanks to colourful planters and hanging baskets which have taken pride of place around its streets.

The bright floral displays have been put together by the Halesowen's Chamber of Commerce, managers at Cornbow Centre, local company Sandvik and council workers.

And they have pledged to add even more ahead of entering the town into the national In Bloom competition.

The partnership is part of the council's Love Your Community campaign which encourages people to take pride in where they live. Around a dozen planters and around 24 hanging baskets are now in place throughout the town centre in High Street, Queensway, Somers Square, Hagley Road and Great Cornbow.

Organisers will now be inviting ideas and contributions from gardeners, Friends of Parks, Allotment Associations and schools to help gear up the town for it to be entered into the national In Bloom competition in coming years.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transportation,

said: "It is excellent to see community groups and organisations coming together to help improve the town for residents, shoppers and businesses."

Chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Trade Steve Fitzpatrick said: "This is something we have been working on for several years and we are delighted it is now really taking shape. The help we have received from Sandvik in terms of sponsorship is invaluable so we are extremely grateful to them."

Organisers are still looking for more sponsors to help increase floral displays or support and can be called on 07974 443162.

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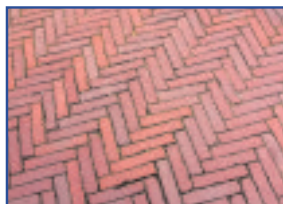


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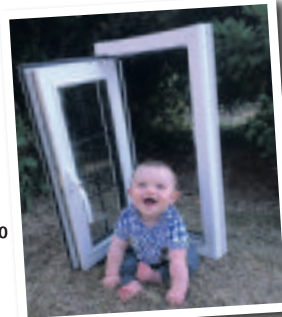
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MEMORY LANE



The interior of the Turner factory, an old RAF building



A late Turner sports car pictured in the mid-60s



Two Turners in racing colours at Pendeford in the snow



Two Turners awaiting delivery at Pendeford in the 60s



Turner Sports cars at Halfpenny Green in 2012

It's Turner sports car to take a bow

by Alec Brew

ON Sunday there will be the annual Turner Sports Car gathering at Bantock Park, and two weeks later on Sunday, September 1, as part of the Autumn Wings & Wheels Event at Halfpenny Green, a new Turner Rally is planned.

Turner owners will be invited to drive their sports cars from Wolverhampton Airport to Wolverhampton Airport, from the site of the factory where they were made at Pendeford Airport to a building identical to the Turner factory at Halfpenny Green.

Jack Turner was already a well-known figure in motor racing when he decided to make his own sports cars.

The Turner factory began in the Old Smithy at Seisdon, but moved to Merridale Street Wolverhampton in 1953, and then to Wolverhampton Airport, Pendeford in 1956, into one of the old wartime RAF buildings, which covered the area where the Pendeford Business Park is now sited.

After the RAF left, all the wartime buildings had been taken over by a number of small companies.

Jack designed a simple entry-level sports car, with a ladder frame body and an attractive fibreglass body. He used engines and running gear from a number of sources including Austins, Ford and Coventry Climax.

They had very good handling and a good power to weight ratio, and were soon doing well in sports car racing, surprising a number of more famous makes like Healeys and MG.

More than 600 were made before the factory closed in 1966, and the very loyal Turner Register, holds annual rallies at Bantock Park, and in America, where quite a number were exported.

Turners have already been displayed at a previous Halfpenny Green Wings & Wheels event, but this year there will be a new twist as they gather at the site of the former factory, now demolished, and drive in convoy to Halfpenny Green, where the standard wartime RAF buildings still remain, to be photographed outside one, a nostalgic reminder of Wolverhampton's last car manufacturer.



Some of the Turner workers gathered outside the factory

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NEWS

Thief laughs at one-man crimewave claim by judge

Garden is a haven for couple



Don Hall enjoys a glass of wine with wife Barbara in their thriving garden

PLENTY of sun and showers have been a welcome boost to British gardeners, with flower beds full of colourful blooms and trees laden with fruit.

And one green-fingered resident who has made the most of the warm weather is 74-year-old Don Hall, who treats his garden as a haven since being diagnosed with throat cancer.

Mr Hall credits working in his garden for putting him back on the road to recovery, and he spends as much time as he can tending his flowers.

His garden in Netherton is full to the brim with everything from

marigolds to geraniums. Despite everything Mother Nature has thrown at it, he says his garden is 'better than ever' this year.

Mr Hall, who used to work at BRD in Aldridge and previously lived in Pelsall, Walsall, said: "It's been absolutely perfect growing weather. "Our garden is absolutely beautiful this year."

The former car components inspector, who lives with wife and retired florist Barbara, 72, said his garden had been a haven since his cancer diagnosis eight years ago.

● For video log on to www.expressandstar.co.uk

A MAN laughed when a judge described him as a 'one-man crimewave' after a court heard he admitted more than 100 thefts from cars in a Black Country town, netting almost £20,000.

But 25-year-old Dale Mowat then claimed that he had been made a 'scapegoat' and police forced him to admit to 94 offences to be considered by the court just to clear up their crime detection rates.

District Judge David Miller told Mowat, of Ridge Grove, Stourbridge: "This is a one-man crimewave."

"It's approaching £20,000. There are 100 separate victims to this man's crime spree."

The judge, sitting at Dudley Magistrates Court, sent him in custody to Wolverhampton Crown Court to be sentenced on August 28, saying the value of the items stolen exceeded his powers of sentencing.

Dressage

Mowat admitted entering Stourbridge Children's and Family Centre with intent to steal on June 3, seven thefts from vehicles and two attempted thefts, in the Stourbridge area, between December and June.

The total value of those items, which included a dressage top hat, was more than £3,000. He asked for 94 further thefts from vehicles to be considered – and the judge said the value of those exceeded £15,000.

When Mowat laughed at the description of him as a one-man crime wave, Mr Harpreet Jhawar, defending, said his client had some mental health issues.

As he faced custody and sentencing at crown court, Mowat shouted he had been forced into admitting the extra offences.

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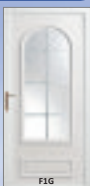
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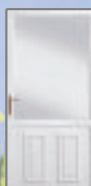
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NEWS

Cheeky call of naturist bookworms is dismissed

NATURIST bookworms had some bare-faced cheek – when they asked for permission to strip off and hold regular nude reading sessions at a Black Country library.

by Louise Jew

The nude reading group offered to bring in towels so that members could cover the chairs they would sit on and robes to put on in case they needed to flee if there was a fire alert.

But Dudley Library chiefs vetoed the idea on the grounds it would cause too much disruption and not be a 'proper' use of publicly owned premises. They have, however, offered to supply books to them if they decide to meet to read in the nude at a member's home.

Dudley Councillor Stuart Turner, chief of the borough's libraries, agreed the idea of such a group was a bit of an eye-opener.

"I was a bit surprised by the request," said Councillor Turner. Personally I wouldn't have the first clue about what the attraction would be of a nude reading group. They wanted to use a room in the main library on a Saturday morning.

"I heard they would bring

towels to protect the seats. But it's an approach we declined because it would not be an appropriate or proper use of public premises."

He added: "It's not for us to make a judgment on what anyone does but public nudity isn't the norm and we have to operate within certain levels of decency."

"It would also have caused massive disruption – we would have had to set aside quite a substantial room every Saturday morning, which would be a disruption if it was any group."

"I never worried about whether Mrs Jones was going to go round a corner and bump into someone with no clothes on – and didn't even get round to considering whether we might have to black out the windows or how it might affect the comings and goings of staff who needed to use the room."

Speedy memories



Librarian and speedway fan Sally Knight, at the display



Former Cradley rider and world champ Eric Gundersen

THE history of Cradley Heathens and speedway in the Black Country has been brought to life at an exhibition.

Photographs, posters and tickets from 1945 to the present day will be on display at Wolverhampton Central library until Saturday.

Bilston Black Country Memories Club has organised the display which features mementos from the Wolves and Cradley speedway teams in years gone by.

Fantastic

Club publicity officer Gerald Hanrahan said: "Speedway is a fantastic sport for both men, women, old and young. This new display is really special because it shows people how it all started in 1949 and takes you right up to the present day."

"There are posters of all the great racers in two cabinets, including Ole Olsen, golden oldie Graham Warren and Peter Karlsson who still rides today."

Some of the photographs include a picture of the Wolves speedway team celebrating after becoming champions in the 2009 season, beating the Swindon Robins 95-90 on aggregate in the finale.

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NEWS

Zero hour contracts under fire by father

THE father of a Black Country teenager on a 'zero hours' job contract has spoken out after she was left without work or wages for five weeks.

Eighteen-year-old Amy Lowe, from Stourbridge, says she has been told it will be at least another two weeks before she will get her next shift – paying slightly under £5 an hour – at baked potato outlet Spudulike in Dudley's Merry Hill Centre.

And her father, Labour party prospective parliamentary candidate for Stourbridge Pete Lowe, has criticised the sharp rise in such contracts, which are currently under a review ordered by Business Secretary Vince Cable.

Amy, of Nuthatch Drive, Amblecote, who signed up as a shift worker for Spudulike six months ago but has worked there only sporadically since, said: "It's horrible."

Amy, who lives with her father, a leading Dudley councillor and Union union officer, mother Sue, a health visitor, and sister, Katie, aged 16, wanted regular work with Spudulike as she studied for her A levels at Halesowen College.

She says the most she has worked in any week was three days and that she has been offered no work in the last five weeks, despite ringing up every Thursday.

Nobody was available for comment at Spudulike.

Crackdown on lorries with parking and weight limits

PARKING restrictions will be introduced on a road outside a quarry in Dudley following complaints from residents about lorries clogging the streets.

Dudley Council will install 'no waiting' signs along Dudley Road, Kingswinford, in a bid to stop lorry drivers parking up ahead of Ketley Quarry opening at 7.30am.

Learning site plan unveiled for students

PLANS for the next stage of a multi-million pound learning quarter in the heart of Dudley have been unveiled.

Dudley College wants to open a specialist maths block for full and part-time students, which will be called Dudley Enhance.

A two-storey building will be constructed next to the existing Dudley Sixth campus, off Ednam Road and Priory Road.

Bosses say the popularity of the sixth form centre, which opened in September, has prompted the plans for the development to cater for a growing number of students.

A planning application lodged with Dudley Council has been approved by council officers, who have welcomed the scheme as a boost for the town.

It comes as preparations get under way for work to start on a £6m manufacturing and engineering complex – called Dudley Advance – on a site off Priory Road.

It will give students specialised manufacturing skills, and it is hoped it will help to support the local and national engineering, technology and manufacturing sector. The new maths complex will be built on a site between Dudley Sixth and Dudley Advance.

A 7.5-ton weight restriction will also be introduced at nearby Ploverdale Crescent to prevent them from driving around the estate to 'kill time' before they are allowed to enter the site.

Neighbours and ward councillors have long called for action to be taken, saying the vehicles cause long tailbacks and block the pavements.

It comes after councillors agreed to enforce a cut-off point for when heavy vehicles had to stop arriving and leaving the site as part of a 15-year review of operations at the site.

Balance

They stopped access to the site for vehicles between 6pm and 7.30am each day.

Ward councillor Patrick Harley added that the new parking restrictions followed discussions between residents and councillors.

"This is all about striking a balance so that not only are we restricting the impact on residents but we are also allowing the business to continue to prosper."

"There have been complaints from people because the lorry drivers are queuing up along the road before the quarry opens which has made it difficult for residents to get out of the estate and buses haven't been able to get through."

Cabinet member for transport Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the cost of introducing the parking restrictions would be around £6,000.

Ernie gets his Arctic Star at last



Ernie Stokes, with wife Jean, receives his Arctic Star medal from Dudley Mayor Alan Finch

A VETERAN from the Black Country has received recognition for his bravery serving on the dangerous Arctic Convoys during the Second World War.

Former Royal Navy able seaman Ernie Stokes has been awarded the Arctic Star – a medal honouring his efforts on the convoys that escorted supply ships to the Soviet Union.

Mr Stokes, of Nuthatch Drive, Amblecote, said he was very proud to have received the honour, but saddened it had taken so long for him and others to get the recognition. "It has been rather a long time coming but

I am absolutely delighted to have got the medal," he said. "Something could have been presented at the end of the Cold War but successive governments seemed to put it on the backburner."

War-time leader Sir Winston Churchill famously called the Arctic Convoys the 'worst journey in the world'.

Crews had to serve in dangerous and freezing conditions under constant threat of attack from German forces looking to prevent supplies from reaching Russia. Mr Stokes, now aged 88, said he had signed up when he was 18 years old.

News in brief

Sainsbury's staff hand over £2,700

COLLEAGUES from Sainsbury's stores across the Black Country visited Birmingham Children's Hospital to present a cheque for £2,702 to the Big Bandage Appeal.

Staff from stores including Wombourne, Blackheath, Amblecote and Merryhill wore bandages to raise the money and held raffles.

Sainsbury's spokesman Natalie Jacobs said: "The work of the hospital has impacted the lives of so many people in our local area, including colleagues and customers."

There's the rub at nature reserve

WREN'S Nest National Nature Reserve in Dudley is continuing its programme of summer events with a fossil rubbing session and fossil hunt on August 21.

On August 24 a craft session will take place from 10.30am to 12.30pm and on August 28, there will be more den building, wildlife spotting and crafts.

On Wednesday August 28 there is another wild in the woods activity with den building. Call 01384 812785 for more information or to book places.

Cars in collision

THREE car drivers and their passengers escaped with minor injuries in a crash near Kinver. The accident happened last week on the A449 Kidderminster to Wolverhampton road, by the junction with Doctors Lane, Ashwood.



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Saddling up for riding challenge in aid of charity to help abuse victims

A TEAM of intrepid cyclists from a hospital trust are setting off through the Black Country on a 143 mile bike ride.

A group of around 40 staff from Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust will be taking part in the Trust's 2013 annual cycle ride on September 5.

Starting at Sandwell Hospital, the team will be pedalling the punishing Sustrans Route 81, skirting round the Dudley borough border, going on to in

Wolverhampton and Telford, passing over the Welsh border, through the Cambrian mountains and alongside the Elan Valley reservoirs, before finally hitting the coast at Aberystwyth.

The ride is being carried out to raise funds for Sandwell Women's Aid, a local charity that offers refuge, support and counselling to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

One of the fundraisers, Dr Matthew Lewis, gastroenterology consultant at the Trust, said: "Staff at the Trust have been doing the charity bike rides for 12

years now. I'm sure the mountains in Wales will be a challenge, but we're all looking forward to it and hope to raise as much money as possible for the charity."

Fellow pedaller Warren Chapman, who is a nurse consultant at City Hospital's endoscopy unit, added: "My cousin works at Sandwell Women's Aid, so I know firsthand what great work they do in the community."

To support the cyclists, you can donate at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/swhbcharitybik-eride2013> or contact Warren on 0121



Nurse Warren Chapman and Dr Matthew Lewis

UKIP candidate for by-election revealed

UKIP has announced its candidate for the Coseley East ward by-election on September 19.

The political party is putting forward Mrs Star Etheridge as its representative.

UKIP spokesman said: "Mrs Etheridge is a very strong candidate and we are united as a branch in having supported her as the best candidate for the position."

Star is a nationally known political voice as the UKIP disabilities spokesman. UKIP is determined to bring real, strong representation to the people of Coseley.

Star said: "We are determined to fight hard in this ward and win for the people of Coseley. Successive Conservative and Labour administrations in Dudley have let the people of Coseley down. It's time for UKIP. We will not let the people of Coseley down!"



Star Etheridge

Hannah is the IT girl at just 7



Logging on for a bright future in computers, Hannah Millington-Day, aged seven, at Wombourne's leisure centre, who has passed a GCSE equivalent course in IT

SHE may only be seven-years-old but computer whizz kid Hannah Millington-Day is already ahead of her time.

The youngster, from South Staffordshire, has just received a certificate for passing a GCSE equivalent course in IT, which she started when she was five and finished when she was six.

Her proud parents today said she first started using a computer at the age of three.

They added that the OCR IT level one qualification she has achieved was usually taken by people almost 10 years older than her.

Her mother Donna Millington-Day, who runs her own cake shop in Wombourne, said:

"From a young age we knew she was gifted. In terms of computers, she's really advanced, but also in maths, English and reading she's also far ahead."

"But even though she's very talented she's a happy little seven-year-old and loves normal girly things like dancing, singing and music."

Hannah attends All Saints Primary School in Trysull and lives in Stourbridge Road, Wombourne with her parents Donna and Myles, as well as two-year-old brother Ted.

"She quite often gets him on the computer and shows him how to use it, like a teacher," said Mrs Millington-Day.

Memorial to Churchill may resurface at development

A FAMOUS memorial to wartime leader Winston Churchill could be resurrected as part of new developments planned for the site of a derelict office block.

The mosaic was the centrepiece of Dudley's original Churchill Precinct for more than 20 years but was taken down in 1991 after vandal attacks and weather damage took their toll.

A campaign to restore the memorial and return it to the town was launched earlier this year by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

And he announced talks were taking place with developers working on buildings intended to replace the town's disused Cavendish House about the project.

Fragments

Mr Austin said he hoped they would agree to commission an entirely new or restored memorial as part of the development. If they opted to restore the memorial it would use the few surviving fragments of the original mosaic which has been kept in storage by Dudley Council.

It is believed only eight of the original 17 stained glass panels still exist. The main panel, which featured a representation of Mr Churchill, are among those not held in the archive. Dudley Council has been studying just how much of the original glasswork exists and its condition should it be re-used.



The Churchill Precinct mosaic in 1969

Mr Austin said: "We have been looking at exactly what remains of the original artwork although much was damaged by vandals and the weather. I am hoping we will be able to persuade the developers of the new planned to replace Cavendish House to commission a new or restored memorial."

"The piece would form part of the new development. This site is very close to where the original was located and we ought to be able to get it down in time for the 50th anniversary of Mr Churchill's death in two years time."

Plans to restore the memorial have received the backing of Mr Churchill's grandson Nicholas Soames, who is himself a Conservative MP for Mid-Sussex.

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NEWS

Wards boost with nearly £1m to fund better care

NEARLY £1m has been secured to improve dementia care for patients in the Black Country.

The cash, totalling £903,700, will be used to carry out upgrades to 12 wards across Sandwell General Hospital, City Hospital, Rowley Regis Hospital and Leasowes Intermediate Care Unit.

by Lisa Wright

The money has been secured by bosses at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

Rachel Overfield, chief nurse, at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs all four centres, said: "The trust is committed to refining the way we care for people with dementia to make their stay in our hospitals and community facilities as stress free as possible."

Unfamiliar

"The planned upgrades will focus on reducing the disorientation and frustration patients with dementia often experience when they are brought into an unfamiliar environment, such as a hospital ward."

The Trust secured the money from the Department of Health in a recent bid for a share of a £50 million fund

to create services specifically designed for the needs of people with dementia.

Part of the cash was spent making individual bays on wards distinctive and easily recognisable to the patient.

In bathrooms, white fixtures and fittings, such as hand rails and toilet seats, will be swapped for coloured ones to help with depth perception and blue flooring will be replaced with green to reassure patients they are on solid ground.

Nursing stations will also be revamped to enable nurses to care more effectively for patients.

At the Henderson Unit at Rowley Regis Hospital funds will be spent improving accessibility to the existing garden. In a number of wards, activity and dining areas will be created.

The best of British



From left, Molly Figgitt, aged nine, Ruby Cheatham, also nine, and Tilly Figgitt, seven, ready for the fun day

British holiday favourites including Punch and Judy shows and fish and chips will be the theme at a family fun day this weekend. Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford will host the Best of British event on Saturday.

Staff will be getting out the bunting and firing up the brass band for a busy programme of activities - all for free! There will also be donkey rides, traditional games, a football penalty shoot out, British brass band classics, glass-making demonstrations and craft activities.

The free event will run from 10am to 4pm.

Pub wins second award

A PUB has scooped its second award of the year after impressing judges with its welcoming atmosphere and competitive beer prices. The Red Cow in Lower Gornal has now been named West Midlands County Pub of the Year 2013 by the Campaign for Real Ale.

It is run by David and Linda Corns who were also awarded the Dudley and South Staffordshire branch's pub of the year prize in March. The couple, who took over the reins three years ago, are back behind the bar for their second stint managing the business in Grosvenor Road following a six-year spell from 2001 to 2007.

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There are also a variety of construction & built environment higher education courses available for adults who are looking to progress in their career.

Kevin Stevens, faculty director at the Centre of Excellence for Construction & Building Services, said: "All around us are examples of what has been achieved through built environment careers and professions."

"Everything from the buildings that have been designed through to the way towns and cities are planned and created."

"We provide all levels of construction courses including brickwork, carpentry and joinery, plastering, plumbing and painting and decorating as well as some very good electrical installation and gas service and maintenance courses, but the built environment is key to providing our



Piping up – plumbing apprentice Ant Parkes, celebrates his competition win alongside plumbing lecturer at the college, Simon McPhee

environmental infrastructure. "Career progression is very good in this field and our qualifications are designed to ensure that students can progress through to university and to the top of their chosen profession

where salary rates are excellent." The built environment courses available are the National Certificate/Diploma in Construction for progression onto the Higher National Certificate/Diploma in Construction,

Civil Engineering and Building Services Engineering offered in partnership with the University of Wolverhampton.

Anyone interested in built environment courses need a minimum of four Cs including maths, English and science.

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Our facilities at the Centre of Excellence for Construction & Building Services located in the heart of Brierley Hill offer a range of specialist craft workshops for construction trade courses and well-equipped classrooms and equipment for built environment studies.

Anyone wanting to enrol on part time Construction, the Built Environment & AAT (Accounting) courses should come along to the early enrolment session at the Advanced Technology Campus, Waterfront Business Park, Brierley Hill, DY5 1LX on Tuesday August 20, between 2pm and 8pm.

Contact 01384 399775 for more information.



Construction students sweep the board in Carillion's Apprentice Skillbuild contest



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COMMERCIAL FEATURE



Cooking for the camera – media and culinary arts students create visual delights

Academy first year has been amazing

HOW much can you achieve in a year? Quite a lot when you are part of the Academy at Kidderminster. Students have had the time of their lives during the 12 months that the Weavers Wharf-based skills and entrepreneurial academy has been open.

Many of them have gained full and part-time employment and been involved in a range of projects and activities.

Interest from businesses wishing to work with the Academy has also continued to grow.

"Our first year has been truly amazing," said Academy

Director, Jane Smith. "Thanks to the fantastic support we've had from the local community, we've been able to provide learners with education and training opportunities that have meant their careers are off to the best possible start."

Successful projects that Academy students from different subject areas have collaborated on include a charity dinner in aid of Help for Heroes, a fashion show in conjunction with New Look and a Saturday Kitchen MasterChef competition.

Students have also carried out work placements at Hester Blumenthal's Fat Duck restaurant and The Savoy as well as at New Look and Debenhams.

"Students have said they have really enjoyed working on projects, organising and helping out at events and studying with different people," Jane Smith continued. "Best of all, they have experienced all these things in a thriving environment with facilities they love."

"This means the Academy has achieved the aims we set out with. And in September, we can look forward to creating many more opportunities where learners will excel."

Sponsorship

School leavers and adults can study full and part time qualifications at the Academy ranging from book-keeping to interactive media to legal studies.

Courses in dental nursing, pharmaceutical science, electrical and electronic engineering and servicing are also available. For those that want to brush up on their literacy and numeracy skills, Functional English and Maths courses will help improve their career prospects.

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship student, Dan Edwards is one of many to have made the most of the learning opportunities available at the Academy.

"I've taken the basic principles of business and used them to do lots of different things like approaching companies for sponsorship of our events, selling and promoting," he said. "I've got more confidence and see myself going on to university after I've finished my course."

"The Academy atmosphere is totally relaxed while staying professional. You know you have to work hard, though you can enjoy yourself at the same time."

September enrolment begins on Monday (19). Parents and students aged between 14 and 16 can also find out more about Saturday Junior Academy programmes which run during term times.

For further information telephone 0845 155 0101, email Kiddacad@bmetc.ac.uk or visit www.kidderminsteracademy.co.uk



Learners enjoy working with one another



Dan Edwards (far right) has developed a head for business

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Fri 6 September	10.00am - 4.00pm
Sat 7 September	10.00am - 1.00pm
Mon 9 - Thu 12 September	12.00noon - 7.00pm
Fri 13 September	10.00am - 4.00pm
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Sunny – and not just the weather



English Heritage gems include Osbourne House (above) and Carisbrooke Castle (right)



The pretty town of Shanklin is very popular with tourists



THE weather was warm and the welcome even warmer – or more to the point Warner! From the moment we checked into Norton Grange coastal village at Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight we were treated like VIPs.

And although the Warner coastal villages may not have the same pomp and splendour as its range of country hotels they have that wonderful friendly feel which make you feel at home from the off.

From the fellow holidaymakers to our lovely young waitress and the chambermaid who, once I commented on her specially-shaped elephant towels, produced a different animal every day for me to come back to – a lovely touch. And as many people decide to stay on site all day Warners make sure there is plenty to keep them occupied.

From the after breakfast walk around the site, a great way to get to know people, to the daytime tuition sessions of archery and rifle shooting, quizzes, dance sessions, song groups, bowls, tennis, pitch and putt, snooker, table tennis, and the list goes on. And as Warner is “no children just big kids” you can feel free of any responsibilities for a few days.

So whatever your age – and there is a great range of age groups – you can choose to be active or relax instead and go for the swimming pool, hot tub and sauna. There really is no need to go off site but it would be such a shame not to as there are so many nice places to explore. They do offer trips out or if not you can drive round the island in no time as it is only around 23 miles long.

Reputation

We had opted for the Isle of Wight as many years ago our children had gone there on school trip and said how lovely it was so we decided to give it a go – good choice. It has a reputation for good weather and it certainly did not let us down.

Just down the road from Norton is Needles Pleasure Park and the famous chairlift which gives you a wonderful view over The Needles. The site also has a 4D cinema and demonstrations of glass blowing and sweet making. You can also book up nearby for open top bus rides and coastal trips.

The ferry across from Lymington, Hampshire to Yarmouth takes around 30 minutes and the ferry terminal is just a few minutes away from the Warner site. You can take the coastal path into Yarmouth which is definitely worth a visit with its quaint shops and wealth of pubs.



Make sure you take a ride on the chairlift at Needles Pleasure Park to catch a glimpse of the famous Needles



For garden lovers this is a real must with all the wonderful specimens at Ventnor Botanical Gardens

Take the coastal path the other way and you find yourself at Fort Victoria, a very popular spot for school trips and it has its own aquarium and model railway exhibition.

Being a member of the English Heritage is a bonus there and we popped along to the nearby Osbourne House and Carisbrooke Castle where we watched a wonderful demonstration by donkey Jigsaw who turned the enormous ‘hamster-style’ wooden wheel to bring up the water from the well. And Yarmouth itself has a castle, again part of English Heritage.

Over on the other side of island we visited the quaint and popular Shanklin and on the way back

down the coastal roads – breathtaking views – we took in Ventnor Botanical Gardens with species I have never encountered before.

At Warner the price includes breakfast and an evening meal and they do some great deals all year round. The meals are really first class with plenty of choice and you can opt for the help-yourself range or be served to the table.

Entertainment is laid on throughout the day and in the evening, both in the Waterfront and Mariners show bar. The entertainments team work tirelessly and are very professional – the highlight being the Night at the Shows which featured music from Les Mis, Joseph, Blood Broth-

ers and many more. The chalets are comfortable and parking is nearby and they are just a short stroll away from stunning views of the western Solent. Sitting on the terrace in the sunshine looking over the Solent work seemed a million miles away. Dream on...

SUE ATTWATER

FACTFILE

Warner has plenty of choice with seven country hotels and six coastal hotels and villages. For information go to www.warnerleisurehotels.co.uk or call 0844 871 4523

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South Africa

South Africa is a country five times the size of Britain and it has so much to offer the visitor, including breath-taking wildlife, stunning scenery, a huge sense of history, bustling cities plus first class food and wine.

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For most visitors the highlight will be a full day's game drive that brings the chance to see the sweeping savannah and muddy waterholes lined with animals, and to marvel at the incredible 150 mammal and 500 bird species that live in the Kruger National Park, including the 'big five': elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo. Rooms are reserved at the three-star superior Hippo Hollow Country Estate, located in the midst of lush forest on the banks of the Sabie River. It's open-air terrace overlooks the grounds and river, so watch out for the hippos!

Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Islandwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

A well-organised schedule of tours combined with free time in Cape Town, Johannesburg, in Knysna on the coast and at the Kruger National Park means everyone will experience the very heart of South Africa on this 16-day adventure.

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Express & Star

NEWS FEATURE

We survived on drink and fags, we loved it

by Andy Richardson

IT'S HARD to imagine that 30 years have whistled past since glam rocker Tyla J Pallas started his career.

Back in 1983, His intentions were clear: he wanted to get out of Kingswinford and reach LA, New York or Sydney.

And, remarkably, he did. The lead singer with The Dogs D'Amour, who has also worked with members of The Quireboys, has been a regular feature of the glam scene.

He's back in time for an autumn tour, when he'll bring his Devils Supper show to his former stomping ground, Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms, on September 14.

"I'm really looking forward to the gig," he says. "I'll be playing a set with Spike, from Quireboys, with tunes from Flagrant Yours, as well as a few Dogs classics."

Tyla has amassed a remarkable back catalogue of some 300 or more songs.

Career

"Some things need a little working at but others come out in seconds," he adds. "I've tried all of the 'let's-all-get-together-at-10am-and-jam-until-we've-got-a-song-stuff' but it just doesn't work. It just has to come, it can't be forced."

Though Tyla now lives in London, he enjoys returning to the Black Country to play at his former haunts. Wolverhampton was important to his career and he retains a strong affection for the city's rock fans.

"The Dogs started after I'd been kicked out of my own band, which started in Kingswinford."

"Back in those days, the only objective was to get the band together and learn the songs."



Back on familiar turf – Dudley-born and bred rocker Tyla J Pallas, who is heading to Wolverhampton for a gig next month with his new band

"We didn't get paid, ever. We'd just turn up and work really hard on the gigs. People would put us on at 7pm on a Monday night, when there was nobody there. But we didn't care. We just wanted to play."

"We kept working and working until we moved on to play for bigger audiences. We always used to play at Edwards Number 8, in Birmingham, and then we'd move up to the Hummingbird."

"Then we'd be off to Manchester or London and suddenly we'd find ourselves playing in front of 3,000 fans in London."

"Then we'd be off to America – we'd come down to earth with a bump and play to 30 people in a room."

Tyla doesn't look back at that era through rose-tinted shades.

"It was very stressful. I look back and it was one of those situations where it was nightmare at the time. The van would break down in Holland, we never had any money or any food. We'd survive on drink and fags. But we'd never done it before so we loved it."

Stardom

It's been 20 years since Tyla had a record deal, but he enjoys his independent existence.

"I've got my own label and I just go out there and do what I do. The big 'stardom thing' doesn't come and scoop you up. You have to work at it."

"Sometimes I look back and wonder where all the years went, but I'm just glad that I make my living being on the road."

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ANITA petite 33yr old tanned, toned sexy size 10 female with very high drive and lots of energy looking for similar man for adult no stings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406835 ☺

HI I am Linda a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406715 ☺

PAULINE, passionate, intelligent, discreet married lady seeks discreet special man of any age, call for more info. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 339087

GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sightseeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great Summer with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765

LINDA bored housewife wanting to spice things up a bit looking for clean well-mannered professional for discreet adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406705 ☺

SUE slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTW willing male to get to know and spend quality times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406693 ☺

NICKY lonely single mum with GSOH, honest and very loving seeking trustworthy, cuddly, tactile male who can make all my dreams come true. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406523 ☺

SARA 32 very attractive single mum, OHAC, professional, looking for similar outgoing single dad 35-55yrs for companionship, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406511 ☺

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135 ☺

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015 ☺

BEAUTIFUL olive skinned sensual lady, adventurous, with some naughty ways, discreet and seeks same. Age/looks/nationality unimportant but must be adventurous. Tel: No. 0905 002 1957 Box 345725

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTW younger gentleman with similar interests. Tel: No. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319 ☺

ENAT easygoing pretty, honest 24yrs, enjoys cosy nights in, romantic walks, holidaying, keeping fit, WLTW fun, loving, energetic male, looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406117 ☺

SUSAN 34 attractive looking to find that special connection with a nice guy who would enjoy spending good times with me and share new interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406109 ☺

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818 ☺

SINGLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449 ☺

PAULINE 36 intelligent easygoing female with GSOH looking for nice guy who wants to get to know and connect with me, enjoys meals in/out, music and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406373 ☺

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406341 ☺

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393373 ☺

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918 ☺

JANET looking for handsome prince to spend me in return for lots of good fun and well deserved uncomplicated attention. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405823 ☺

NEW to dating and a little nervous, Susan very attractive 30yr old curvy single mum, looking for fun times with similar outgoing male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405809 ☺

SARAH 24, brunette, brown eyes, attractive, slim, smart, seeks male with GSOH, 30's in Kidderminster area for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406139 ☺

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407 ☺

ARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325 ☺

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 366429 ☺

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTW appreciative guy Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819 ☺

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135 ☺

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169 ☺

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62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106 ☺

SUSIE fun loving mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate to get to know better. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404627 ☺

JANE 48yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403949

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985 ☺

SHELLEY 48, 5ft 5ins, brunette, seeking discreet relationship with male 48-52 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405795



WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447 ☺

BLACK female 32yrs, 38dd, very curvy, sensual and looking for discreet fun with no strings or complications, any age, looks or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405269 ☺

GALE looking for old fashioned man with old fashioned values to sweep me off my feet, enjoy adult fun times and maybe even more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405259 ☺

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243 ☺

MANDY friendly outgoing arty female who loves wining/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405229 ☺

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651 ☺

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTW caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317 ☺

I am Tracy 39yr old young chatty single female looking for older male to look after me and show me some much needed attention with discretion and no ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405293 ☺

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405281 ☺

VOLUPTUOUS big hearted brunette, Maria, 36, loves music, seeks someone special to show her what she's missing. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 346785 ☺

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

MARIA petite curvy brunette, into keep fit, running, beauty, looking for nice genuine tall N/S guy with no ties for fun adult companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405099 ☺

SALLY 37 blonde blue eyed bombshell who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405203 ☺

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863

BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 362478

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327 ☺

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021 ☺

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207 ☺

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428 ☺

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066 ☺

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432 ☺

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTW tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, Hereford. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 304135 ☺

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 327579

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923 ☺

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTW male, 45-60 fit plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

BIG is beautiful! Voluptuous, sensual female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528 ☺

SINGLE MEN

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MALE 47, honest, caring, loving, OHAC, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406891 ☺

KEVIN 40, stocky, 6ft 2ins, dark hair, likes nights in/out, seeks female, 35-50 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406773 ☺

MARK 45, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737 ☺

COLIN 5ft 8ins, dark hair, brown eyes, likes pubs, walks, dvds, holidays, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406677 ☺

MATT nice build, likes cycling, clubs, looking for fit, sexy female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406727 ☺

PROFESSIONAL local businessman, 40 tall, blue eyes, likes sports, music, seeks professional slim lady for romantic meals, evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406717 ☺

ARE you a black princess? 48yr old sporty white male, 5ft 11ins, likes holidays, cinema, meals out, would like to take you out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406551

MALE seeking female, 40-55, discretion assured, status unimportant for daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406433 ☺

SHARP dressed man, mature, fun, seeks smart, size 10 lady, any age for friendship and relationship. Hereford. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405323 ☺



58YR old male, likes nights in/out, looking for N/S female, 40-60 for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975 ☺

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372

38YR old farm worker, medium build, seeks female of similar age for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406331 ☺

ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easy going, likes sport, socialising, seeks female for fun and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406317

CHRIS 45, genuine, honest, caring, N/S, likes cinema, theatre, socialising, seeks genuine, N/S female, 39-45, single mum welcome for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406295 ☺

46YR old stocky male, no ties, shaved head, likes walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeking female for relationship, are you the one? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406291

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTW lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259 ☺

BROADMINDED 67yr old black male, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks lady, 62-69 for friendship and adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406257 ☺

MAURICE 50's, seeking N/S female for nights out, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400425

STRICTLY come dancing. Male 52, trendy, honest, caring, down to earth, fun loving, seeks petite lady, 45-54. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397163

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, broadminded, seeks bored female for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 372407

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551 ☺

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157 ☺

ROUGH diamond 45 looking for older lady, the older the better, for fun times, can accommodate, let me entertain you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404437

GEOFF 60's, tall, seeking nice lady for fun, friendship, relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406077

PAUL 46, brown/blond hair, 6ft, slim, single dad, genuine, down to earth, fun loving, kind, caring, likes most things seeking female for love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406007 ☺

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton local for discreet, naughty daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405699

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

MALE 45, 5ft 9ins, slim, caring, loyal, GSOH, WLTW female, 35-45 for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402493

GARY 39 seeks female 30-50 for fun, maybe relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404487 ☺

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MALE 39, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, caring nature, seeks similar female with view to permanent loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400703

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WHO'S WHO in your area?

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Sarah's Rose Garden Florists Quinton's Little Treasure Trove

When Sarah Burrows first set up the business back in 1994, one of the driving influences was the need to deliver excellence in customer service, one of the main issues she felt was lacking in the business where she completed her YTS training. "I wanted to give a better service to customers than I saw being offered where I started out".

Today the business is thriving, as well as the flower arrangements for all those happy occasions; they also provide flowers for bereavement and funerals. "It is important to be there for the good times and the bad," says Sarah, "It

is often the last thing you can do for someone you care about and getting it absolutely right is essential".

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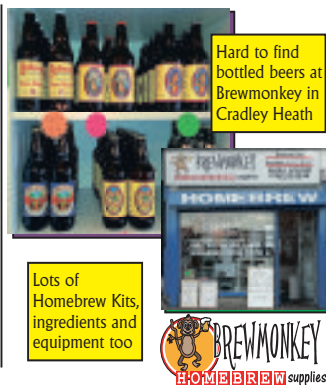
Brewmonkey Homebrew in Cradley Heath High Street

has added a new dimension with a license to sell alcohol. Owner Ken Ball says "If you want to brew good beer you first need to know what good beer tastes like!" Brewmonkey is using its connections with local microbreweries to offer bottled beers not found on supermarket shelves including three bottle conditioned beers by the superb Kinner Brewery, Bathams Best Bitter and "Piddle in the Hole" from Wyre Piddle Brewery. These will soon be joined by beers from Cradley's Angel Brewery and the famous Thornbridge and Oakham Breweries too.

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The Cake Emporium Halesowen, an Independent Cake Supplies company re-opened its doors under new management on the 8th July, 2013. On re-opening it partnered with Delicate Delights Cakes.

The two businesses bring over 15 years combined experience in the industry.

The Shop now operates as The Cake Emporium Halesowen & Delicate Delights Cakes.

The Cake Emporium primarily focuses on supplying sugarcraft and cake decorating supplies to the enthusiastic and aspiring cake bakers. It offers a wide range of sugarcraft supplies and cake decorating equipment such as cake boards & boxes, sugarpaste, cutters, flowers, ribbons, cupcake casings and much more. We will also be running cake decorating classes.

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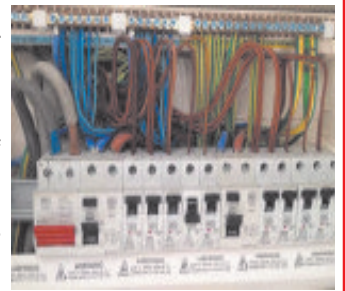
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What's On! Halesowen

Folk fans at ready for glass cone site

STOURBRIDGE's iconic Red House glass cone will provide the backdrop for a folk festival next month.

The September 8 event, organised by Katie Fitzgerald's music pub in Wollaston, will feature the New Bushbury Mountain Daredevils. Other acts include Nizlopi, Rory McLeod, Nick Harper, Sunjay Brayne, the BBC2 folk awards nominee, and Kim Lowings.

Tickets for the folk festival cost £22.50 and are available by visiting www.stourbridgefolkfestival.co.uk or by calling Katie Fitzgerald on 01384 374410, or 07860 783232.

Family activities at museum event

BLACK Country Living Museum throws open its doors after hours for an evening of family-friendly activities on Saturday.

Fire jugglers, mime artists, living statues, face painting and fairground rides will be on offer. There will also be a Charlie Chaplin impersonator and Fizzog Productions will put on a performance of Little Red Goldilocks. Entry is half the normal admission and can be booked via 0121 520 8054 or online at www.bclm.com.

Paintings on show

THE Black Country Artists group's exhibition of more than 60 paintings, and craft work, in Halesowen ends on Saturday at Hurst Green Methodist Church, Narrow Lane. The free display runs from 10.30am to 5pm.

Win pairs of tickets to Black Country's own rock festival

SANDWELL Valley is set to rock over the August Bank Holiday weekend as fund raising music festival Judgetock returns, bigger and better than ever.

The Chronicle has teamed up with Sandwell Council to offer readers a chance to win one of 10 pairs of three-day weekend adult tickets for Judgetock, worth more than £60 per pair.

This year's family-friendly event will see dozens of bands across three different stages as, for the first time, Judgetock will be part of the annual Sandwell Show. Headliners will include The Quireboys (Saturday), The Twang (Sunday) and Brit-award winners Blue on Sunday, kicking off their European tour in Sandwell.

Voice

Main support acts are Mitchel Emms from the BBC's The Voice, Alabama 3 and R&B sensation Lemar. There will be local bands including XLR8 and tributes to Thin Lizzy, Pink, Lady Gaga and Michael Jackson.

Judgetock is dedicated to the memory of Simon Turton, a local man who lost his battle with cancer in 2011. Simon was an old school friend of festival organiser, Lee Judge, and the money raised will be going to aid Macmillan Cancer Support and the Mayor of Sandwell's charities.

Tickets for the event cost £12 plus booking fee per day for adults, or £30 plus booking fee for the three days event, £6 per day plus booking fee or £15 plus booking fee for the three days for children (5-16) with under 5s free when accompanied by a paying adult. See the website www.judgetock.co.uk



Kerrang radio's Johnny Doom will compere Judgetock Music Festival stockmusicfestival.co.uk and tickets are available on www.ticketmaster.co.uk.

For your chance to win tell us who Judgetock dedicated to?

Send your answer on a postcard, with your name, address and telephone number, to Judgetock Competition, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES. Closing date August 23. Usual rules apply and the editor's decision is final.

Plant is back on road with a new group

HE'LL turn 65 on August 20 but Black Country rock icon Robert Plant is working harder than ever.

The star will headline Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on September 2 with his new band: Robert Plant Presents Sensational Space Shifters.

He has been on the road in recent times, telling audiences: "This is one of the most stimulating times in my life."

His shows have featured Led Zeppelin material, which has satisfied many fans eager for the thunder of the 1970s act that sold as many as 300 million records.

His gigs have featured Babe I'm Gonna Leave You, Rock and Roll, Black Dog, Whole Lotta Love and Who Do You Love?

Plant is playing a small number of UK dates on his present tour. His tour starts in Bristol with a date at the Colston Hall on August 29 before moving onto the Stradbally Estate for its Electric Picnic.

He stops off in Wolverhampton for his one-off gig at the Civic before returning on October 29 for a headline at Manchester's Apollo.



Robert Plant – the icon is 65 next week and still rocking

V exciting star line-up on the way

A STAR-STUDDED pop and rock line-up of more than 80 acts will be taking part in this weekend's V Festival at Weston Park, near Wolverhampton.

Topping the bill on Saturday night will be Americans Kings of Leon with support from Welsh rockers Stereophonics.

Other stages will offer more dance-orientated alternatives with Calvin Harris, Rita Ora and Basement Jaxx, or the jazz sound of Jamie Cullum.

Other acts during Saturday including, aptly, pop princesses The Saturdays, plus Emeli Sande, Rudimental, Tom Odell, McFly, Lawson, Ellie Goulding, Naughty Boy, Birmingham's Laura Mvula and rising star John Newman.

Or if comedy's your thing, the stand-ups on Saturday duty include Jon Richardson, Rob Rouse and Paul Chowdhury.

Beyonce

Megastar Beyonce tops the bill on Sunday with support from The Script, Jessie J, Paloma Faith, and Two Door Cinema Club. Whilst James and Deacon Blue will be warming up the crowds earlier on.

The other stages offer alternative headliners Steve Angello, Brum's Ocean Colour Scene and Benjamin Francis Leftwich. The day's comedy superstar is Eddie Izzard.

For latest information visit www.vfestival.com

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 17.08.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Alexander Armstrong

Pointless Celebrities

BBC1, 5.45pm
Alexander Armstrong and his Richard Osman return for another helping of teasers in which famous faces have to guess which is the least popular answer on the board. For example, if we said: 'Name two stars of Red Dwarf', chances are Craig Charles and Danny John-Jules would feature rather high. We could ask you to name a couple of stars of one of the Beeb's another enormous hits, Mrs Brown's Boys. Yes, you could say Brendan O'Carroll and Jennifer Gibney. As you probably guessed, Craig, Danny, Brendan and Jennifer are all taking part in this week's show.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. A round-up of the latest sports news. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Athletics: World Championships. **5.25** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. **6.35** That Puppet Game Show. **7.15** I Love My Country. Sally Lindsay, Gemma Atkinson, Billy Boyd, Michael Ball, Greg Rutherford and Faye Tozer demonstrate their knowledge of all things British. Game show, hosted by Gabby Logan. **8.00** The National Lottery: Break the Safe. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three couples take part in several quiz sessions in a bid to be the last pair standing. Includes the National Lottery results with OJ Borg. **8.50** Casualty. Part two of two. Zoe returns to find the ED in chaos and Jamie barricaded inside her office with Ramin, and as the situation escalates, the nurse must put his training to the test. **9.40** Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. With Al Murray, Micky Flanagan, Jo Caulfield and Jon Richardson. (R) **10.10** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** Match of the Day. Highlights of the opening matches of the Premier League season; National Lottery Update. **11.55** The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two. **1.10** Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.30** Film: My Life with Caroline. (1941) **8.50** Film: Underwater! (1955) **10.25** Reel History of Britain. (R) **10.55** The Private Life of Plants. (R) **11.45** University Challenge. (R) **12.15** Athletics: World Championships. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.00** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **3.00** Wild China. (R) **4.00** Urban Jungle. **4.30** Final Score. Round-up of football results. **5.30** Coast. **6.00** Flog It! **7.00** Proms Extra 2013. Katie Derham presents a review of this week's concerts and there is an interview with Marin Alsop, who is set to become the first woman to conduct the Last Night of the Proms. **7.40** Dad's Army. Corporal Jones's fitness to serve is tested. (R) **8.10** Thatcher – The Downing Street Years. Documentary from 1993 examining the former Conservative prime minister's 11 years in office between 1979 and 1990, beginning as her new government tries to revive the UK's economy. (R) **9.10** Top of the Lake. Matt reveals a secret that leaves Robin in despair, but the detective summons up her last reserves of strength to try to find Tui before her father can. Last in the series. **10.10** QI XL. With Sue Perkins, Ross Noble and Professor Brian Cox. (R) **11.00** Film: Rabbit-Proof Fence. (2002) Fact-based Australian drama, starring Everly Sampi. **12.25** Film: 2 Days in Paris. (2007) **2.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV. Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.40** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Bookaboo. (R) **7.20** Kick Butowski – Suburban Daredevil. **7.35** The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! **8.00** Gravity Falls. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Dinner Date. (R) **9.25** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Saturday Farm. **12.25** Countrywise. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **1.45** Film: Smokey and the Bandit II. (1980) **3.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather. **6.00** You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile-phone footage, including out of control children, silly seniors and animals unable to get along. (R) **6.30** You've Been Framed! Unlikely insurance claims. (R) **7.00** Film: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. (2007) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **9.40** The Americans. The Jennings plot their next move carefully when they meet an American asset who plans to give them highly classified information, while Stan gains an unprecedented opportunity. **10.35** ITV News; Weather. **10.50** Film: State of Play. (2009) Political thriller, starring Russell Crowe. **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 British GT. **6.30** The Grid. **7.00** IPC Swimming World Championships 2013. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Undercover Boss Australia. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** V Festival 2013: Saturday Live. **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** Come Dine with Me. Chris Wood, the self-confessed "campest straight man in the world" hosts the fourth and final dinner party in Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, and the winner is revealed. (R) **6.45** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Film: Mission: Impossible. (1996) A secret agent is accused of betraying his fellow spies, and sets out on a mission to clear his name. Action thriller based on the 1960s TV series, with Tom Cruise and Jon Voight. **9.00** Film: Knight and Day. (2010) A woman gets kidnapped and dragged into a rogue secret agent's mission to clear his name after he is framed as a traitor. Comedy adventure, starring Tom Cruise. **11.10** Stephen Merchant: Hello Ladies. The Office co-creator's critically acclaimed 2011 stand-up comedy show, based on his experiences of the rocky road to finding love. **12.10** V Festival 2013: Saturday Highlights. **1.35** Crazy about One Direction. (R) **2.35** Hollywoods. (R) **4.00** Countdown. (R) **5.30** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.35** Sluggterra. **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.05** Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **12.30** Film: The Battle of Britain. (1958) **2.30** Film: Anzio. (1968) **4.50** Film: Columbo: Ashes to Ashes. (1989) **6.35** Film: Jesse Stone: Benefit of the Doubt. (2012) The troubled cop returns to his role as chief of police to bring the perpetrators of a Mob-related double homicide to justice. Detective thriller, with Tom Selleck. **8.05** NCIS. An ex-serviceman is beaten to death in his own back garden, and the agents are forced to consider the possibility his wife – a marine and martial arts expert – is the killer. (R) **9.00** NCIS. The team is forced to undergo psychological evaluations while investigating the death of a submarine's commanding officer. (R) **9.50** 5 News Weekend. **10.00** Big Brother. Another chance to see last night's eviction, in which one unlucky housemate missed out on a place in the final week in the house. **11.00** Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. AJ Odudu is joined by a panel of psychologists and celebrity fans to analyse the housemates' behaviour in the lead-up to Monday's final. **12.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2011: Not in 3D **7.15** Film: Shanghai Noon (2000) Comedy Western, starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson. **9.00** Film: Armageddon (1998) Sci-fi thriller, starring Bruce Willis. **11.20** Family Guy **BBC Four**
7.00 Precision: The Measure of All Things **8.00** Tiger – Spy in the Jungle **9.00** Sebastian Bergman 10.30 Quadrophonia – Can You See the Real Me? **11.40** The Who at the Electric Proms **ITV2**
3.00 Film: What a Girl Wants (2003) **5.05** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.00** You've Been Framed! **9.00** Film: The Bourne Supremacy (2004) **11.15** Film: Red Dragon (2002) **ITV3**
2.45 Film: The Mirror Crack'd (1980) **4.50** Inspector Morse **7.00** Foyle's War **9.00** Lewis: The death of an Oxford don leads to the shady underworld of unlicensed boxing. **11.00** Wire in the Blood **ITV4**
3.05 Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **4.50** Film: Where Eagles Dare (1969) **8.00** Black Gold **9.00** Film: Demolition Man (1993) **11.20** Film: Magnum Force (1973) **E4**
5.30 The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Suburgatory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** Happy Endings **9.00** Film: The Beach (2000) **11.20** PhoneShop **11.55** The Inbetweeners **Film4**
2.55 August Rush (2007) **5.05** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **7.15** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Ugly Truth (2009) **10.50** Machete (2010)

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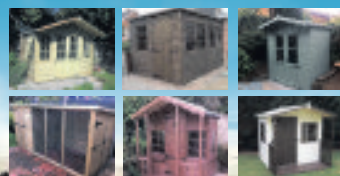
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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 18.08.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Rebecca Ferguson

The White Queen

BBC1, 9pm

The last episode of this series doesn't bring much joy for Queen of England Anne Neville. Her health is deteriorating and what with the death of son Prince Edward and then hearing of her husband's love for Princess Elizabeth, she resigns herself to her fate. However, Anne's determined to clear her conscience first, and even manages to bury the hatchet with Elizabeth, but just as an eclipse occurs, the Queen passes away. Anne's death means there's now a chance for Elizabeth's first-born daughter Princess Elizabeth to marry her uncle King Richard III.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.35** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Bargain Hunt. **12.40** Athletics: World Championships. **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Britain's Big Wildlife Revival. **6.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Countryfile**. In south Oxfordshire, Julia Bradbury explores the Wittenham Clumps and John Craven lends a hand on a farm that is providing work experience for people with learning difficulties.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow**. New series. Items on show at Polesden Lacey in Surrey include a glove thought to have belonged to Elizabeth I and a brooch kept hidden for years while its owner was in a POW camp.

9.00 **The White Queen**. The death of Anne provides hope that Princess Elizabeth and Richard III will marry, but battle looms with Henry Tudor waiting to invade and claim the throne. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents action from today's Premier League fixtures, which were Crystal Palace v Tottenham Hotspur at Selhurst Park and Chelsea v Hull City at Stamford Bridge.

11.25 **That Puppet Game Show**. (R)

12.05 Film: Nothing to Lose. (1997) **1.40** Weatherview. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.45** Film: The Lost Moment. (1947) **8.00** Around the World in 80 Days. (R) **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** EastEnders. **1.55** Coast. **2.25** Film: Krakatoa, East of Java. (1968) **4.30** What's Killing Our Bees? A Horizon Special. (R) **5.30** Flog It!

6.30 **Live MotoGP**. The Indianapolis Motor Grand Prix (Start-time 7.00pm). Coverage from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, as the riders battle for points in the 10th round of the season.

8.00 **Dragons' Den**. An embarrassing malfunction affects a product designer's pitch, and a married couple troupe will encourage the Dragons to invest in a range of cooking sauces.

9.00 **The Hairy Bikers: Restoration Road Trip**. Si King and Dave Myers help rebuild an early traction engine before learning how it revolutionised farming, and restore a rare barge once used to transport coal on Britain's canals.

10.00 **Blackadder the Third**. Prince George hires two actors to improve his speech-making. (R)

10.30 Film: **Frost/Nixon**. (2008) British broadcaster and journalist David Frost sets up a series of interviews with disgraced former US president Richard Nixon. Drama, with Frank Langella.

12.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.20** Holby City. (R) **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.40** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Bookaboo. (R) **7.20** Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. **7.35** The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** Murder. She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **12.30** Murder. She Wrote. (R) **1.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.30** A Touch of Frost. (R) **4.30** Film: The Queen. (2006)

6.30 **Regional Programme**; Weather.

6.45 **ITV News**; Weather.

7.00 **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars**. Britt Ekland, Sherrie Hewson and Robin Cousins take part in the quiz show in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

8.00 **Martin Clunes - Heavy Horsepower**. The actor explores the important role of working horses. (R)

9.00 **Law & Order: UK**. A gay man is found brutally murdered. Last in the series.

10.00 **ITV News**; Weather.

10.15 **Perspectives: Warwick Davis - The Seven Dwarfs of Auschwitz**. A Jewish family of travelling musicians who survived the concentration camp. (R)

11.15 **Murder, She Wrote**. International intrigue is on the cards for Jessica. (R)

12.10 The Store. **2.15** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.30** Motorsport UK. **4.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Ironman 2013. **7.00** IPC Swimming World Championships 2013. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Film: The Legend of Zorro. (2005) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Antonio Banderas. **4.00** V Festival 2013: Sunday Live. **4.40** Film: Step Up 3. (2010) Premiere. Drama, starring Rick Malambri.

6.40 **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free**. Kirstie Allsopp sources and creates furniture for a Suffolk couple, and a Lancashire woman hopes to transform her cramped bathroom with a nautical theme. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 **The Mill**. Lucy and Esther set out to expose Mr. Timperley, convinced he is responsible for Catherine's disappearance, while Robert breaks bad news at the factory. Last in the series.

9.00 **Southcliffe**. One year on, an anonymous letter reawakens David's fear that Morton is alive, so the reporter returns to Southcliffe - and suspects a new threat is imminent. Last in the series.

10.05 Film: **Dear John**. (2010) A soldier falls in love with a student, but their relationship is put to the test when he decides to return to duty. Romantic drama, starring Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried.

12.05 V Festival 2013 Highlights. **1.30** Film: Baaria. (2008) **4.10** A Film from My Parish. (R) **4.20** Three in a Bed. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jam. **10.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.50** Sluggers. **11.10** Inside Hollywood. **11.15** Big Brother. (R) **12.15** BB BOTS: Rylan's Supersized Celebrity Sunday. **1.15** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **2.20** Film: Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure. (2009) **3.50** Film: Bewitched. (2005) **5.50** Film: Hitch. (2005)

8.00 **Once Upon a Time**. Regina uses magic to give Belle a set of false memories.

8.55 **5 News Weekend**.

9.00 **Big Brother**. The last daily round-up before the final, as the remaining housemates focus their eyes on the main prize, having survived almost 10 weeks at Big Brother's pleasure.

10.00 Film: **Next**. (2007) Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage.

11.55 Film: **Above the Law**. (1988) Thriller, with Steven Seagal.

1.45 SuperCasino. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarn. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarn. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Robin Hood **7.45** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **8.15** Film: Shanghai Knights (2003) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Boom Town **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four **7.00** A Poet's Guide to Britain **7.30** Proms on Four: 20th Century Classics **9.00** Review Show **10.00** The Fairytale Castles of King Ludwig II with Dan Cruickshank **11.00** Alan Whicker's Journey of a Lifetime

ITV2 **3.15** Film: The Mighty Ducks (1992) **5.25** Film: Johnny English (2003) **7.15** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **9.00** Film: The Shawshank Redemption (1994) **11.50** Hell's Kitchen

ITV3 **3.40** Murder. She Wrote **4.35** Wycliffe **6.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Film: Dangerous Liaisons (1988) **11.35** A Touch of Frost

ITV4 **1.25** Film: The Manchurian Candidate (1962) **4.00** Film: Paths of Glory (1957) **5.45** Film: Aces High (1978) **8.00** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **10.00** Film: National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1 (1993)

E4 **3.30** How I Met Your Mother **5.30** Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** New Girl **8.00** Film: New in Town (2009) **10.00** The Inbetweeners **10.30** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23 **11.00** Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special

Film 4 **2.55** Carry On Teacher (1959) **4.40** Love Happens (2009) **6.50** Mad Money (2008) **9.00** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)

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Film Choices

MONDAY

The Perfect Assistant, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman becomes obsessively infatuated with her boss, but does not act on her desires. However, when his wife becomes seriously ill, she sees an opportunity to murder her, so the object of her affection will be available. Thriller, starring Josie Davis, Chris Potter and Sophie Gendron. (2008)

TUESDAY

While My Pretty One Sleeps, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A prominent gossip columnist is murdered before she can expose a scandal in the fashion industry. However, a tenacious boutique owner's curiosity is piqued by the case and she begins her own investigation – only to end up in danger from the Mafia. Murder mystery based on Mary Higgins Clark's novel, starring Connie Sellecca, Beau Starr and Frankie Pellegrino. (1997)



The Da Vinci Code, Wednesday, Channel 5, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

The Da Vinci Code, Channel 5, 9pm

A respected academic goes on the run when he is framed for the murder of a French historian. Pursued by the detective on the case and a sinister assassin monk, he strives to unmask the culprit, leading to a conspiracy determined to preserve a 2,000-year-old secret at any cost. Thriller based on Dan Brown's novel, starring Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou and Ian McKellen. (2006)

Smart People, BBC1, 11.35pm

Misanthropic professor Lawrence Wetherhold engages in a faltering romance with a former student, but his self-absorption threatens to wreck their relationship. He also has to contend with his freeloading brother, who is determined to get Lawrence's uptight, achievement-obsessed teenage daughter to lead a normal life. Comedy drama, starring Dennis Quaid. (2008)

THURSDAY

The Pledge, ITV, 10.35pm

A Nevada cop is on the verge of retiring when a desperate woman begs him to find whoever is responsible for her seven-year-old daughter's murder. Unable to turn her down, he begins an unofficial investigation, sure that the man his former colleagues suspect is innocent – but as he draws closer to the killer, he becomes increasingly obsessed. Drama, directed by Sean Penn and starring Jack Nicholson. (2000)

FRIDAY

Pitch Black, ITV, 10.35pm

A spaceship crashes on a desolate alien planet inhabited by nocturnal predators. The creatures' fear of light seems to guarantee the survivors' safety – but when an eclipse takes place, they face a desperate struggle to survive. Sci-fi horror, starring Vin Diesel. (2000)

Pick of the Week

Robin is left stunned by Matt's hidden secret

"Top of the Lake is a classic mythic struggle," says Jane Campion, the acclaimed writer and director who co-created the series.

Those who've watched the entire series, which ends this week, would no doubt agree with her; they'd also add that it's been completely riveting.

But has it's been an enjoyable experience? The word 'enjoy' is perhaps not appropriate in this case – "endured" is probably more fitting.

Not that the plot hasn't been gripping, moving and intriguing, but claiming to have enjoyed something involving such a grueling experience as watching the fall-out from a pregnant 12-year-old's disappearance seems wrong. Nevertheless, we've continued to tune in, utterly transfixed by an incredible and powerful story with, unusually these days, a completely unguessable finale.

And as it all draws to a close this evening, with a bit of luck, we can soon all get back to having fun on a Saturday night instead of feeling emotionally drained.

The main focus of the drama has been Robin (Elisabeth Moss), a cop

specialising in child cases. She grew up in the area where the story has taken place, but it's her first return there since a traumatic event in her own youthful years.

However, always lurking in the background has been Matt Mitcham, the father of pregnant Tui. He's an odd character who also seems to have baffled Peter Mullan, the acclaimed Scottish actor who plays him.

"I can't tell you much about Matt because I'd never profess to know a character," says Mullan. "All you can do is kind of find their soul. The rest takes care of itself."

"He simply exists in his own world and he has his own rules and he has his own issues, shall we say, not least of which is a certain narcissism, a certain amount of self-loathing, a fairly complex relationship with his mother, a very complex relationship with his kids, and a certain sense of entitlement."

"He's good fun and he's a bit wicked in the sense that he'll do things some people would wish they could do. And he's rude and abrasive and massively,

massively insecure and full of all his own self-pity."

Mullan also describes Matt as "a bit alpha male," which is an understatement; Matt is in complete control of his family.

"His kids love him only because he's all that's there to love," explains the actor. "I've no interest in making someone sympathetic. What I am interested in is, even though one may not like someone they're as human as the next person."

Matt is certainly in the thick of things as the final episode begins.

Robin's obsession with finding Tui reaches boiling point as she realises the little girl's due date is drawing ever closer. She visits Matt, determined to once and for all get some useful information from him.

Matt has something to say, but his news leaves Robin in utter despair.

Nevertheless, she digs deep, soldiers on and heads off to find Tui before her father can get his hands on her – but she isn't prepared for shocking conclusion that's about to confront her...



Elisabeth Moss stars in Top of the Lake, Saturday, BBC2, 9.10pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

The Incredible Spice Men BBC2, 8.30pm

Variety, they say, is the spice of life. Except when it comes to cooking – then spice is the spice of life, and two chefs in particular know exactly how to eke the most out of it. In this new five-part series, Tony Singh and Cyrus Todiwala set out to demonstrate how good old British grub can be improved even further with clever use of herbs and spices. They start out in Hastings, East Sussex, where they show how ginger and lime can help to complement the subtle flavour of Dover sole.

Big Brother: The Final Channel 5, 9pm

In 1986, Nine-and-a-Half Weeks became one of the most talked about movies of the era. The same amount of time has been spent on the far less steamy run of Big Brother. Alan Partridge lookalike Dexter has been good value for money admittedly, and the twins, Jack and Joe have raised a few giggles. As for Hazel, Charlie, Gina, Sam and Sophie? They captured the imaginations of some, surviving eviction well into early August. Now there are just a few hours to go until Big Brother bows out for another series. Emma Willis will reveal who is the latest winner in a double bill wrapped around much hyped new import, Under the Dome.

TUESDAY

The Great British Bake Off BBC2, 8pm

Bakers up and down the nation have had their egos stroked by the trailers for series four of the

ratings winner already, as it proclaimed: "Cake! It's What Makes Us Great!" The ensuing weeks, however, will be spent hammering them back down again, as we see just how high a bar Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood set for baking excellence. This week's opener focuses purely on cakes – and let's face it, if our amateur bakers can't master those, what business do they have in Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins' kitchen tent? First up, they have to make a traditional sandwich cake, before the technical challenge sees them take on an angel food cake, and a chocolate-based cake in the showstopper round.

Top Boy Channel 4, 9pm

It's two years since we last saw Dushane, the charming, sexy, clever but unlawful central character in Ronan Bennett's Baffa-nominated drama. Now he's back on our screens, and much has changed. He's now a high-flier, a real player in the world of his boss, Joe. But there's a storm brewing involving Dushane's former right-hand man Sully, who is now a potentially dangerous rival with a new partner in crime, the violent and volatile Mike. It looks as if their bubble is about to be burst when they're arrested for the murder of a mutual rival – but Dushane has an ace up his sleeve in the shape of beautiful solicitor Rhianna, who is so sharp, she gives him a run for his money as well as the police.



Top Boy, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

Who Do You Think You Are? BBC1, 9pm

It's been a few years since Gary Lineker was a star on the pitch, but thanks to his presenting duties on Match of the Day, not to mention those ubiquitous crisp adverts, he's rarely been out of the public eye since; on Saturday, August 17 alone he's in That Puppet Show, and a new run of MOTD. But this show is less about him and more about his family, including his great-great-grandfather James Pratt. He was a poacher in Victorian England who served time in Leicester Prison. Gary investigates why his ancestor became a repeat offender, and also researches his four-times great grandfather Thomas Billingham.

The Culture Show at Edinburgh: Funny Women BBC2, 10pm

It's a funny old business stand-up comedy, and not always funny ha ha. It's a sad fact that there just aren't that many great female stand-ups out there. However, the likes of Bridget Christie, Claudia O'Doherty and Dana Alexander are attempting to redress the

balance with their turns at the Edinburgh Festival. Sue Perkins will be spotlighting their talents, as well as chatting to Lucy Porter, Jo Caulfield, Andi Osho and Shappi Khorsandi. They all reveal how and why they got into comedy, along with one of British showbusiness's most reliable funny women, Jo Brand.

THURSDAY

Poaching Wars with Tom Hardy ITV, 9pm

We're a nation of animal lovers, us Brits, which makes us not too dissimilar, funnily enough, to Bafta Award-winning Tom Hardy. Sure, the actor has wowed us with performances in the likes of Bronson, Inception and The Dark Knight Rises, but for a one-off, he's not putting on an act – we're about to watch him exercising his love for animals, as he travels to South Africa, Botswana and Tanzania. Yep, this time he's got an altogether different agenda – to uncover the truth about why poaching elephants and rhinos has reached crisis levels and to see for himself what can be done to put an end to the killing.

FRIDAY

Emmerdale ITV, 7pm

Normally the plot thickens in soaps, but in Emmerdale one is being dug up – namely the glamping site. It marks the end of Declan's business dream, but that's just the tip of the dramatic iceberg. Declan is desperate for Jai to invest in his business, but he refuses, so Macey hopes Charity will help change Jai's mind.

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Property



The kitchen includes built-in wine rack and granite worktops



The spacious lounge includes a brick-built feature fireplace

Exclusive stylish converted barns

PART of an exclusive development of high quality barn conversions in Himley, this property is on the market based on offers around £425,000.

Rookery Barn, Whitehall Barns, has four bedrooms, two bathrooms, garage and garden with views over fields.

The entrance hall has built in shoe and cloak cupboards with the cloakroom having a white suite of WC and wash hand basin while the breakfast kitchen has a range of wall, drawer and base units, built in fridge/freezer, dishwasher and washing machine, work surfaces, inset stainless steel sink and mixer tap, space for range style cooker with extractor hood and doors to garden.

The lounge has feature brick fire surround with inset fire and doors to the rear garden.

On the first floor the master bedroom has an en suite with shower cubicle, wash hand basin and WC and



Offers of £425,000 are invited by Berriman Eaton for Rookery Barn in Himley

there is a further bedroom with built in wardrobes, while the family bathroom has a white suite comprising panelled bath with shower and screen, WC and wash hand basin.

On the second floor are two more bedrooms, one en suite with shower cubicle, WC and wash hand basin.

Outside a communal driveway off the A449 leads to a large courtyard area with parking and access to a garage, with lawned gardens to the front and rear, the latter having a paved patio, and there is also a patio to the side. Call Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744 for details.

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HALESOWEN, Bromsgrove Road £875 pcm
Located in the desirable area of Romsley, this unfurnished semi detached house features gas central heating, modern and spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, loft space, front & rear gardens, garage, fantastic views. Viewing strongly recommended.



HALESOWEN, Jimara, Feldon Lane £695 pcm
An extended traditional semi-detached house with plenty of space. Comprising a large living room, separate dining room, study, 2 double bedrooms, 1 large single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, kitchen with appliances, separate utility room, downstairs wc, driveway for 3 cars.



SELLY OAK, Corisande Road £650 pcm
A 3 bedroom semi detached house in a popular location with bus links to Birmingham City Centre, close proximity to Birmingham University and QE Hospital. Features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom shower. Walking distance to Selly Oak Park.



BARTLEY GREEN, Hunnington Close £600 pcm
Modern 3 bedroom mid-terrace house in quiet cul-de-sac, close to shops and transport. Large lounge with feature fireplace, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, private rear mature garden, 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, white bathroom with "P" bath and shower. Garage en bloc.



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £595 pcm
A nicely presented refurbished end terraced home, close to local shops. Featuring 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage, unfurnished.



HALESOWEN, Linden Avenue £595 pcm
Sited in a quiet cul de sac location. A spacious detached bungalow offering good sized accommodation having 2 reception rooms, open plan breakfast/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, good sized rear garden, garage/driveway parking. Available now.



HALESOWEN, Haden Hill Road £595 pcm
A great size house close to Halesowen and buses to Halesowen and Cradley Heath just outside. This home features 2 reception rooms, dining kitchen, downstairs wc., 3 bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower. Benefits also include gas central heating, front and rear gardens, garage, driveway.



CRADLEY HEATH, Prince Street £575 pcm
A beautiful semi-detached house close to Cradley Heath. Featuring 3 good size bedrooms, master with en-suite, modern bathroom with shower, modern kitchen, low maintenance garden, double glazing, gas central heating, downstairs WC, off road parking.



HALESOWEN, Hoosen Close £575 pcm
A delightful modern mid terraced house located within a desirable quiet cul de sac. Featuring a lovely refitted kitchen with appliances, gas central heating, large lounge with patio doors offering views across a mature garden, benefiting from a sunny aspect. 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage.



HALESOWEN, Clent View Road £550 pcm
Excellent value for money. This exceptionally large home in a very popular location close to local shops and buses to Halesowen and Stourbridge. Close to Colley Lane Primary School, briefly featuring 3 double bedrooms, through lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens.



HALESOWEN, Roundhills Road £525 pcm
An unfurnished mid terraced house, in a well sought after location. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc., 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, house bathroom, rear garden, secure electric gated parking to rear.



HALESOWEN, Howley Grange Road £495 pcm
An unfurnished split level flat on a sought after road. Ideal for Howley Grange Primary School and for Birmingham. This property features a utility room, fitted kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits also include gas central heating, garden.



OLDBURY, Arden Grove £475 pcm
1st floor modern apartment occupying the whole of the 1st floor. Within walking distance of Langley High St, train/bus links and J2 of the M5. This immaculate property features a lounge, recently refitted kitchen, bathroom and 1 single, gas central heating, spacious lounge with patio doors opening to a Juliet balcony, electric heating, double glazing, garden, 1 double bedroom. Private garden and driveway parking.



NETHERTON, Round Street £475 pcm
Sited on a very popular road, and a short walk from local shops and bus links. This re-decorated unfurnished semi detached house features gas central heating, cosy living room, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking.



UPPER GORNAL, Tudor Vale £475 pcm
Sited at the end of the cul-de-sac. This unfurnished end and mews house features gas central heating, newly decorated and carpeted living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space.



CRADLEY HEATH, Pear Tree Lane £475 pcm
Modern 1st floor apartment. Situated on a popular development within walking distance of Old Hill train station and shops. Featuring 1 large double bedroom and 1 single, gas central heating, spacious lounge with patio kitchen with small fridge, bathroom with shower, parking space, rear garden.



DUDLEY, Anchor Drive £475 pcm
Modern and comfortable living. A 2nd floor apartment within easy access to Dudley, Tipton and the M5. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, modern kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower, spacious lounge with patio doors opening to a Juliet balcony, electric heating, double glazing, garden.



BRIERLEY HILL, Little John Street £475 pcm
Located within walking distance to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill. This unfurnished modern end mews house features 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, refitted kitchen, downstairs wc, spacious living room, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars.



WORDSLEY, John Street £450 pcm
Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a short walk from Ambicote. This 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, on road parking and an enclosed rear garden.



CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road £400 pcm
This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill town centre and Old Hill train station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN.



HALESOWEN, Leasowes Court £395 pcm
A part furnished to suit 1st floor flat within walking distance to Halesowen. Featuring living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include allocated parking, communal gardens, electric heating.

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Bridge Road, Tipton



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Birmingham New Road, Dudley



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Lea Green Avenue, Tipton



EPC D

Offers Over £100,000

A two bedroom semi detached property, briefly comprising an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, veranda and family bathroom.

Heath Green, Dudley



EPC C

Offers Over £100,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Corporation Road, Dudley



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Lilac Road, Dudley



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Arley Court, Dudley



EPC D

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Terrace Street, Rowley Regis



£190,000

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Dingle Avenue, Cradley Heath



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A semi detached house comprising lounge, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, three bedrooms, driveway and rear garden. Halesowen.

Glaslyn Avenue, Rowley Regis



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This modern second floor apartment in a popular residential area. Comprising open plan lounge/kitchen, two bedrooms and allocated parking. Halesowen.

Meadow Walk, Cradley Heath



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We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £87,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Mercedes AMG has all-wheel drive



The Mercedes Benz A 45 AMG races to 62 mph in a stunning 4.6 seconds

TRADITIONAL AMG models have been big, brash and brutish in their performance delivery.

However, in the case of the A 45 AMG model, Mercedes has created a very hot hatch, thanks in the main to the class-busting 360 horsepower produced by its 2.0-litre, four-cylinder turbo engine.

In reality it's much more than a just hot hatch on steroids.

As is the case with every AMG car, you buy into the culture of the hand-built engine plus the numerous bespoke set-up and tuning modes over and above any conventional Sport-badged Mercedes. And being a thoroughly

modern AMG car, the A 45 boasts an intelligent all-wheel drive system that directs power to where you need it most. A helpful addition when car can sprint from rest to 62mph in a blistering 4.6 seconds.

With all the engine's power, comes control. Alongside the car's intelligent all-wheel drive system is a three-stage ESP set-up. Aside from the default 'On' mode, there's a second setting giving the driver some leeway before kicking in, with a third 'Off' mode promoted as a trackday setting.

Rounding off the powertrain tour is a version of Mercedes' existing double clutch gearbox. This seven-speed DSG-style gearbox can be left



Mercedes comfort and luxury you would expect

in auto or switched to a more responsive Sport mode, while chunky paddleshifters behind the steering wheel give the driver complete control in manual mode.

Cabin

Figure-hugging sports seats greet driver and passenger when you open the door, and from the sports-themed trim in the cabin it's clear that Mercedes isn't shy in promoting the A 45's performance potential. Racy, red-coloured trim and lots of faux carbon fibre are the obvious giveaways.

Still, Mercedes hopes the real thrill will be from driving. The A 45's deep exhaust note certainly suggests a good time will be had by all,



The A 45 offers a deep exhaust note that bodes well for a comfortable ride

yet the car is surprisingly civilised if you leave everything in its default setting. For many this will help make it an easy-to-live with all-rounder, which is not something you can say for some of the more extreme, rock-hard riding, traditional hot-hatch buzz boxes.

Granted, even in 'comfort' mode, you do know the A 45 is a bit special.

It's also quick, and boasts a refreshingly compliant ride in the context of a firmly suspended compact hatch. That's largely down to the value-added AMG element, which also makes its presence felt through the car's weighty and direct steering. Still, leaving the A 45 in its default settings will mean you'll fail to

reap the benefit of its GTI-plus price tag.

Switch to the gearbox's Sport mode and gearchanges are noticeably quicker, plus you're accompanied by four-cylinder versions of AMG's trademark barking, backfiring and belching exhaust note.

The sports exhaust experience is a must, and the aural rewards are impressive considering you're in a car with half the normal AMG-tuned cylinder count. Despite the presence of an all-wheel drive system, in reality the A 45 bias remains largely front-driven. This, combined with the presence of a four-pot motor, is a first for AMG, yet the firm has done a good job of making the A-Class feel special.

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*Model shown is a Trax 1.6 LT priced at £17,495 OTR. Vehicle shown features metallic paint at an extra cost of £445. Price correct at time of print.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Trax Range: Urban 34.4 (8.2) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 50.4 (5.6) – 70.6 (4.0), Combined 43.4 (6.5) – 62.7 (4.5) CO₂ emissions 153 – 120g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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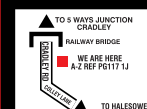
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1 Family

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2 Leisure Time

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COACHMAN AMARA 2 berth, 1999, sh. superb, motor mover, full awning, other accessories, £2,950. 01384 379430 or 07721 098811.

COACHMAN AMARA, luxury 4 berth, 2002. As new condition. Huge and bathroom, CRT, screens, blinds. All extras. £3,895. 07525 016610.

ELDDIS AVANTE 505, 2004, 5 berth, excellent condition, fish mover, awnings and other extras included, £4,700. 01384 253761.

FORD TRANSIT converted to camper van, 54 reg, 10 months MoT, 1 months tax, viewing essential, £3,750 only. 01902 269084.

FULL AWNING, Suncamp Mirage, size 7 (810 - 835cm), poly acrylic, green, used twice. £120. o.n.o. 01384 254530.

LUNA MERCURY 1998, 2 berth, L shaped lounge, rear bathroom, shower, full cooker, good condition, £1,900 only. 07748 642187.

STATIC CARAVAN
35ft x 12ft, Two-bed.
Mid-Wales, £1,000 yearly rent.
Paid for 2013.
Immaculate condition.
Everything included.
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STATIC CARAVAN for sale at Sunnysands, Barnmouth, 4 berth, West-brooks, £3,500. Please call for details 07812 417396.

SWIFT CHARISMA, 2 berth, end bathroom, 4 berth, 2004, some accessories. Good condition. £2,800. 01902 330359.

35' x 12' 6 BERTH CARAVAN
Small, Quiet Rural Site. Excellent Condition. UPVC Verandah and Ramp, Patio and Parking Area. Suit semi / retired £13995 inc of all fees.
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3 Home & Services

carpets & furnishings

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collectables & memorabilia

WANTED BY COLLECTOR All military and military related items, single or full. Very good prices paid. Will collect. 07592 290 155.

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BEDROOM FURNITURE, high sleeper, wardrobe, two chests plus shelves, Pine, £160. 07814 253777.

THREE PIECE cream leather suite, 3 seater, 2 chairs, British made, 8 months old from new. Bargain £450. 07514 233670.

TWO SEATER leather settee, recliner, black, single leather recliner chair, excellent, £250. Nest of tables, £15. 01902 340906.

TWO SEATER leather sofa, plus two reclining chairs, dark green, as new, £500 cash only, buyer to collect. 01889 881411.

TWO, TWO SEATER SETTEES, Pale green with cream leather fabric. Excellent condition. £120 - o.n.o. 01922 625924.

UNUSUAL EXAMPLE of late 20th century console table, art deco style, with mirror, £329. 07969 884247

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COOKER, Flavel Milano, electric fan, ceramic hob, W50cm, as new, under warranty, £250 01384 76202

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Classified Ads

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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pets corner

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

ADORABLE LABRADOR pups, dogs and bitches, wormed, insured, KC reg. from assured breeder, ready now. 01746 761732 or 07977 423240.

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BARGAIN FOR SALE Sunbrella Cockatoo, 15 months old, just talking, cost £950, also large cage and small pet £650 with certificates. 01902 829139.

BEAUTIFUL TORTOISESHELL kitten, flead, wormed, £30 to ensure good home. 07765 807608.

BICHON FRISE puppies, 2 males, both parents can be seen, £350. 07525 277190.

BLACK KITTENS with faint tiger stripes, boys and girls, ready August 14, £30 each. 01384 241651. 07703 101974.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER Puppies, KC reg. wormed, four weeks free insurance, reared with children in Family home, both parents excellent hip scores, temperamental and can be seen, viewing now, ready August 24. 01630 661740.

KITTENS black and white, ready now, to good homes only, £15 each. 07463 489102.

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All health checked, first vaccine, wormed and deflead. £250 - £450 each. 07972 604503.

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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FURNISHED ONE bed flat, overlooking Bantock Park, CH, own parking, recently refurbished, sorry no DSS, £475pcm. 07759 282535.

HOUSE, Lanesfield, 2-bed, CH, DG, large garden, £485 pcm. 07871 921934, deposit.

LARGE 2-BED Ground floor flat, Tipton, DG, no DSS. £425pcm. 01384 292037.

ONE BED FLAT Willenhall area, £90 pw. Deposit required. 07976 781003. No texts.

WOLVERHAMPTON, Nice, large 3 bed house, DG, CH, parking, no smokers. 07877 673330.

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MOAT ROAD, OLDBURY/WARLEY
Sensibly priced larger 1930's semi. 3 good sized bedrooms. See photos and details at www.elmleaf.co.uk/moatrd. Sale. Open for inspection Friday, Aug 16, 4-7pm, Saturday, Aug 17, 11-1pm, Sunday, Aug 18, 10.30-12.30pm, Wed, Aug 21, 6-7.30pm. Please book.
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£240,000. 07824 637145.

LLANGYNIW NEAR WELSHPOOL
Superb 3 bed chalet bungalow. Fully double glazed and fully residential. Gardens and decking all round. Set in glorious Mid Wales countryside.
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Fishing, boating, water taxi to town and theatre.
£80,000 07899 768900.

HAUGHTON, STAFFORD
Extended linked detached property, village location. Newly modernised throughout. Entrance hall, downstairs w.c, large lounge, large kitchen diner, study, playroom/bedroom 4, 3 large double bedrooms all with fitted wardrobes. Garage and landscaped garden with established borders and shed. Driveway for four cars. Viewing highly recommended.
£240,000. 07824 637145.

LLANGYNIW NEAR WELSHPOOL
Superb 3 bed chalet bungalow. Fully double glazed and fully residential. Gardens and decking all round. Set in glorious Mid Wales countryside.
£85,000 ono. Ian Parry 01938 811194.

MOAT ROAD, OLDBURY/WARLEY
Sensibly priced larger 1930's semi. 3 good sized bedrooms. See photos and details at www.elmleaf.co.uk/moatrd. Sale. Open for inspection Friday, Aug 16, 4-7pm, Saturday, Aug 17, 11-1pm, Sunday, Aug 18, 10.30-12.30pm, Wed, Aug 21, 6-7.30pm. Please book.
£168,000 ono. 07855 058369.

PEMBROKESHIRE, WEST WALES
5 double bed bungalow, ensuite, large lounge, dining room, fantastic views, village location, large workshop/garage.
email: oldgitroy@yahoo.co.uk
£229,950. 01239 698709.

mobile homes

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BMW 323SE, 2000, only 73,000 miles, BMW full, recent £2,000 professional respray, new BMW alloys and tyres, £2,750. 07455 595966.

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£3,495. 07932 392383.

FORD FOCUS LX petrol new shape, 05, 5dr, black, 1.6, full MOT, 6 months tax, good condition, 1 former keeper £2,150. 07838 897643

FORD FOCUS TDCI Sport, 53, 5dr, FSH, tax, MOT, excellent condition, £3,395. 07974 256690, 01543 579587.

HONDA CRV diesel 2.2, CDTI SE, 5dr, 05 reg, 59k, full MOT, tax Dec very good condition, £5,950 ono. 01384 379430, 07721 098811.

HYUNDAI MATRIX Comfort 1.6, black, 2010 reg, only 6,500 miles, FSH, MOT Feb 14, 3 months tax, £5,900 ono. 07910 387964.

JAGUAR X TYPE SPORT, black, diesel, MOT'd and taxed, 2004, 96,000 miles, 4 new tyres, £2,600 ono. 01902 663604.

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06, limited edition Sakata, black metallic, 18,600 miles only, FSH, MOT till May 2014, tax end of October 2013, new tyres fitted last year, other extras. **£2,950 ono. 01384 838326.**

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Choose your show, price band*and how you want to travel

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

ClassifiedAds

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6 Sport, 03 reg, red, tax, MoT, 77,000 miles, s/h, o/s, e/m, excellent condition, £1,300. 07974 349970.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1800 SPORT, S reg, 12 months MoT, s/h, 1 previous owner, 102k, 5 door, hatch, alloys, £350 ono. 01384 278344.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 petrol, 1997, green, 113k miles, full MoT, pas, sunroof, MP3, new tyres, very clean, £400 ono. 07587 18389.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 auto, 2001, four months tax, four months MoT, low mileage, £550. 01902 739156.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.0i, SRI 140, 2000 reg, taxed, long MoT, reliable, good runner, serviced regularly, £550. Must sell. 07966 729989.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.5 petrol, 2002, lowbar, 6 months tax and MoT, clean, top model, £450. Telephone 07935 855895.

VAUXHALL VECTRA LS, 03, new shape, taxed and MoT'd, service history, 86,000 miles, clean car, £895 ono. 07958 240401.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 MPV, seven seater, 2002 reg, 12 months MoT, very good condition, £1,200. 01902 752590 / 07762 381833.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA, 2002, silver, tax, MoT, 111,000 miles, £900 ono. 07749 553441.

VOLVO 540 1.6S, 52 reg., grey, 44,000 miles, MoT September 2013, tax November 2013, £1,200 ono. 07977 884263.

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1980 MERCEDES 380SL, Hard and soft top, 12 months MoT, tax December 13, maroon with cream leather, private plate included, £5,950. 07976 390557.

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CITROEN BERLINGO 1.9 DIESEL VAN, Y reg, 12 months MoT, tax just run out, no rust or dents. £800 ono. 07939 672151.

FIAT SCUDO 1.9 DIESEL, one owner, 98,000 miles, 2003, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, very clean. £1,500. 07976 591009.

FORD ESCORT VAN, 1.8 diesel, S reg, clean, 12 months MoT, £450 ono. Telephone 07778 294979.

IVECO DAILY, 54 year, bespoke central motor caravan conversion with work van in rear, side sliding door, 12 months MoT, 5 months tax, excellent condition. £4,500 ono. 01902 681036/07753 412107.

PEUGEOT PARTNER Van, 1.6HDi, 2008, tax/MoT, fsh, excellent condition £2,100 no VAT. 01384 484137

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10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
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motorbikes

APRILIA SR 50, 2001 reg, 11 months MoT but no tax, all good running, £375. 01902 653300.

HONDA CBF125, Red, 15 months old, Honda warranty, 1 owner, FSH, Taxed, Good condition. £1,400. 01902 663377.

KAWASAKI ELIMINATOR 400, rare, sports edition, quick, reliable cruiser, £750 ono. 07765 952626.

SCOOTER 50cc, 2010, MoT Aug 2014, taxed March 2014, good condition, £500 ono. 07408 09063.

SCOOTER 50cc, 2010, MoT Aug 2014, taxed March 2014, good condition, £500 ono. 07440 089063.

SUZUKI GSXR1000 K2, Standard immaculate 2002 bike, blue and white with average mileage. Data tool alarm fitted plus dual seats. Tax and MoT. £2,850 ono. 07812 751270.

WANTED, British and Japanese motorbikes, any condition, also parts and spares, cash paid. Call 07956 447567 or 01902 562154.

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MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 715146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

JOAN OLGA HOLLIES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Valley Court Valley Road Cradley Heath West Midlands B64 7LT, who died on 14/05/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 18/10/2013, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Cradley Heath
West Midlands B64 5HW

PATRICIA KATHLEEN JONES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 12 Glynn Crescent Halesowen West Midlands B63 2PZ, who died on 05/06/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 18/10/2013, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Cradley Heath
West Midlands B64 5HW

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE, BLONDE LADY, 43

5ft 4in, slim figure, N/S, professional, no ties, car owner, likes travel, cinema, walking, dining out, weekends away. Seeks attractive male, 5ft 10in and over, professional, N/S, car owner, for Friendship / Relationship. Photo essential and returned. Box Number P18751, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

FREE TEXT MESSAGES from women wanting discreet Adult Fun! Call 08444 484021 for full details. Discretion assured!

GENT 52

Non smoker, enjoys days out, country walks, cinema, seeks female 45 - 55 for companionship, must be car owner driver.

Box Number P18754,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN, 67

Young outlook, GSOH, considered not unattractive, believes life's better shared, seeks lady 60-67, similar opinion, for friendship, if compatible, lasting commitment to each other. Box Number P18757, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE 59

6ft tall, non smoker, told not bad looking, GSOH, nice caring nature, divorced innocent party, just retired, WLTM nice lady, non smoker, Rowley Regis and surrounding areas. Box Number P18756, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

YOUNG SLIM ATTRACTIVE 62 YEAR OLD

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sports clubs



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UEFA B Level 3 Qualified Coaching.

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10am-3pm. £15 per day.

Contact Bernard Moseley on 01384 233298 or 07970 868716.

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Charter Standard Club

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Children will be given opportunity to join Penn Colts.

Contact Dave 0783 1582978 or Leon 0789 797881.

F.A. Coaches CRB Checked.



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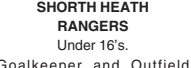
Under 16's.

Goalkeeper and Outfield Players urgently required.

Local team playing in the Bilston League.

Telephone

Terry Murphy: 07582 267471



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Experienced level 1 Coach.

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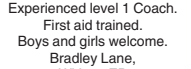
Boys and girls welcome.

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Tuesday and Thursday, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

For details, Call Rob 07986 657832.

Call Carl 07962 880246.



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Goalkeeper and Outfield players for coming season.

Well established Club, Charter Standard.

Text or call Steve 07976 371333



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We are looking for players in the following age groups for the coming season:

U5's, U6's and U7's call Liam on 07814 047298.

U9's, call Chris on 07977 069197, U13's call Gaz on 07715 569730, U15's call Ian on 07900 578241, U18's, call Chris on 07977 069197.

U21's, call Carl on 07710 596712.

Coaches are qualified up to FA UEFA B and CRB checked, we are a player focused club with private pitches and a family friendly social club.



WOLVERHAMPTON UNITED FC

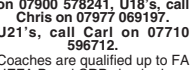
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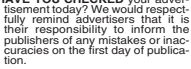
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WOLVERHAMPTON UNITED FC

We are looking for players in the following age groups for the coming season:

Away win guarantees promotion for Thirds

**Warwick & Worcester
Premier Division 1
The George 246
Selly Park 200**

THE First team had a comfortable home win against Selly Park to consolidate third place in the bowls league.

Jamie Dunn (21-16) and Phil Clinton (21-10) saw The George into a 12-shot lead after the first four. Wins in the middle four by Steve Dicken (21-10), Mark Atkins and Pete Davenport (both 21-17) increased the lead to 29 shots.

A strong finish by Eric Winstone (21-11), Steve Darling (21-16), Stewart Meddings and Paul Hemming (both 21-20) gave The George a 46-shot winning margin.

**South Staffs Premier Div 2
Nordley 249 The George 157**

The second team suffered a 92-shot defeat to Nordley and are in a relegation battle. The George recorded only one winner, Stewart Meddings (21-18).

**Warwick & Worcester
Alliance Division 3
Brookhill 182
The George 230**

The third team had a comprehensive away win at the Brookhill, securing promotion to the second division.

Wins by Bill Chiswell (21-5), John Deakin and Peter Hayne (both 21-8) brought 39 shot lead. In the middle four 21-16 wins by Terry Williams, Jim Anderson and Dave James plus a 21-20 win by Paul Rose increased the lead to 55 shots.

Cut clapping, says Petrov

STILYAN PETROV thanked Villa fans for their support but insisted it is time to stop the 19th-minute applause.

The claret and blue faithful have supported Petrov since he was diagnosed with acute leukaemia last year.

Petrov is now in remission, although he has been forced to retire and is assistant to Gordon Cowans with Villa's under-21 squad.

The 34-year-old hailed Villa fans but has moved to call time on the applause at every game, which matched his squad number.

"It was a great thing from the Villa fans, an unbelievable gesture which meant so much to me," he said.

"But we all have to move on."

Hennessey back on the trail in Yeovil loan



Wayne Hennessey

WOLVES keeper Wayne Hennessey has been handed a Championship platform to relaunch his career – at new-boys Yeovil on loan.

The 26-year-old shotstopper will join the newly-promoted club on Thursday for a month after linking up with the Wales squad for tomorrow's friendly against Ireland at Cardiff City Stadium.

Wales regular Hennessey, who has 38 caps, is fully fit again after recovering from a twice-ruptured cruciate ligament sustained in April 2012 and will replace the injured Marek Stech at Huish Park.

And he will come up against some

Wolves

familiar names on his debut on Saturday at Burnley, who are likely to field his former Wolves colleagues Jason Shackell, David Jones and Sam Vokes, also a fellow Wales international.

Head coach Kenny Jackett said: "After 18 months out, I'm pleased Wayne has been given the opportunity to go and play some first-team football."

"He's done all of the training sessions and has played in some of the pre-season fixtures but needs a regular run of games."

"It will be a good chance for Wayne to build up his match fitness, and is also in the best interests of the club to see him enjoy some regular first-team action."

Master

Hennessey has been loaned out so he can get regular football again after Jackett made Carl Ikeme his first-choice goalkeeper.

He will be looking to secure his first taste of regular football since he first ruptured his cruciate knee ligament at Sunderland in April 2012.

Meanwhile, new-boy-in-waiting Kevin McDonald was today backed

to become a Molineux pass master. Jackett hopes to complete the £750,000 signing of the 24-year-old Sheffield United midfielder tomorrow after a stringent medical.

The Blades were forced to accept Wolves' bid after it activated a release clause in his contract. Jackett believes the 6ft 4ins Scot, who is rated as arguably the best midfielder in League One, will wow the fans.

"I've liked Kevin for a long time," said Jackett. "He has good stature and good presence but he's a ball player. He'll give us a range of passing."

Battered Cradley lose out to visitors

**Wednesfield 5
Cradley Town 1**

CRADLEY Town took a battering as Wednesfield got their new season off in style with a superb win to secure three West Midlands League Premier Division points.

Both sides created chances before the visitors forged ahead in the 34th minute. James Welnitschuk fastened onto a Chad Sheppard pass to drill the ball past Wednesfield's keeper Sam Arnold.

Within two minutes the home side were level.

Wednesfield dominated the second half as Harvey and Giles had good chances followed by Giles having a shot cleared off the line.

However the hosts took the lead in the 58th minute new boy substitute Jack Lees outpaced the Cradley defence to score with a tremendous left-foot shot.

In the 64th minute Lees pace left the Cradley defence struggling as he squared the ball to set up Giles for a simple tap in. Lees made it 4-1 with a left-foot shot on the turn from just inside the area.

Wednesfield substitute Curtis Ellis should have extended the home side's impressive lead when he was set up for a one-to-one with Jones but on both occasions shot wide.

Giles made it 5-1 in the 88th minute with his second goal of the game with a well placed shot from 15 yards.

Bulldogs get burned

**Birmingham Bulldogs 20
Coventry Dragons 28**

BIRMINGHAM Bulldogs Rugby League FC's winning run was halted by Coventry Dragons.

Dragons were first to score, winger Carl Liddington getting a try that scrum half Mark Hyslop goaled.

Brum responded with right centre Adam Walker touching down in the corner.

Dragons' second row Dave Whiting drove over close to the posts, stand off Cameron Tune's goal making it 12-4 to Dragons.

Brum responded as left centre Dan Ventrella scored.

In the second half the Dragons pulled further away with tries from centre James Horrocks and Hyslop. Same Edgar went over for Brum, followed by Matt Dudley. Edgar then cut the gap to eight points.

Greaves wants return as he backs Heathens

POPULAR teenage ace Nathan Greaves is backing Dudley Heathens to win the National League title.

Greaves, in his first season of league racing after turning 15 in February, believes the former Cradley club have what it takes to go all the way.

And he's also dropped a massive hint about his plans for 2014, saying he'd love a return to Monmore Green.

"We've got a really good team and we are getting good results at the moment," Greaves said. "Our top three is really strong and as long as they can keep riding well and me and Max (Clegg) chip in at reserve we should have a good chance."

"It would be great to win the league in my first season, so we'll just see what happens."

Fans will be delighted with the news that Greaves is ready to pledge his immediate future to the club.

He said: "I was really looking forward to being part of a team before the season started and it's better than I thought it would be."

"The team spirit is really good, and I love riding for Dudley as well."

"I want to be back here next year if my average fits and stuff like that, so hopefully everything goes to plan over the rest of the season so I can ride here again next season."

Greaves will be alongside Clegg next Friday at a special night to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the magnificent Cradley 1983 side which swooped for the British League and Knockout Cup double.

Team members Alan

Heathens

Grahame and Jan O. Pedersen, plus team manager Peter Adams, will be on stage on Friday August 23 at Cradley Heath Liberal Club.

Now it's been confirmed that both Clegg and Greaves will be special guests on the night representing the current Dudley Heathens side.

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We're delighted both Max and Nathan will be there on the night, both really appreciate the tradition and history of this great club and the fact that they are travelling 100-miles to be with us shows how keen they are."

The evening will also see the launch of a limited edition Cradley 83 brochure – this includes interviews with Lance King and Phil Collins from Amercia, Peter Ravn in Denmark and skipper Erik Gundersen.

There's also stunning pictures from resident Dudley Wood photographer John Hipkiss and the brochure will be available on the night for the special launch price of £5 – it will be £7 after that.

Blackbird puts team mates in seventh heaven

DUDLEY maintained their perfect National League record with a crushing 66-28 victory over Stoke at Monmore Green, writes Rich Jones.

A faultless maximum from No.1 Lewis Blackbird led the determined Heathens to an emphatic seventh win from seven matches to strengthen their grip on the top of the table.

It was an outstanding display to give them their biggest win of the season so far – and Blackbird was delighted.

He said: "The whole team were on it and it was a great performance. Max (Clegg) was brilliant coming back from injury and it was great to see Dan (Greenwood) back in the points as well."

Convincing

"I had a great night as well which I was really happy with, and it was a convincing win for us in the end."

"We're top of the league and things are going well for us so we're just desperate to keep our form going."

After a strong start, Dudley rounded off with six 5-1s in the final seven races to take a comprehensive victory against the struggling Potters.

Blackbird was the star man, but received tremen-



Lewis Blackbird leads Kyle Hughes at Monmore. Picture: John Hipkiss Photography

dous support as Heathens put in a strong all-around display to help cover the absence of skipper Ashley Morris through a thumb injury.

Paul Starke enjoyed another fine evening, dropping just one point and fighting through from the back to join Blackbird at the front for a heat 15 maximum. Reserve Max

Clegg also suffered just one defeat on his return from injury, the pick of his rides coming as he rounded Steve Worrall on the opening lap of heat seven to take second behind partner Blackbird.

His partner Nathan Greaves also put in a promising display despite a fall in his third ride – the only last place by a Heathens rider.

● Dudley have picked Paul Starke, Lewis Blackbird, Ashley Morris and Gareth Isherwood for the National League Fours at Stoke on Sunday.

Dudley: Lewis Blackbird 18, Paul Starke 16+1, Max Clegg 12+2, Dan Greenwood 9+2, Gareth Isherwood 7+4, Nathan Greaves 4+2.

Stoke: Kyle Hughes 11, Steve Worrall 9, Luke Priest 4, Shaun Tedham 2, Lee Payne 1+1, Oliver Greenwood 1.



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Stoke it up
Heathens keep
their record intact
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Griffiths shows he could be new hero

Wolves 4 Gillingham 0
WOLVES fans rose from their seats to acclaim an old hero on Saturday. When the game ended, they did so again to salute perhaps a new one.

It's the third tier, Gillingham were pretty poor and Leigh Griffiths hasn't even started to walk in the footsteps of Dave Wagstaffe yet.

But you would have to go back a long way to recall a performance by a Wolves No.9 that was so enjoyable.

What took the eye was the craft and cunning of Wolves, the killer first touch, the eye for passes which instantly wrong-footed defenders and changed the angles.

Impressive Lee Evans nailed a peach of a goal; Zele Ismail is now displaying the close control which made him such a coveted young player, while Danny Bath, Matt Doherty and David Davis had already left creditable imprints last season.

Richard Stearman, Kevin Doyle and Bakary Sako are welcome contributors from the recent, discredited past.

What Molineux craves and what new eras need most is a hero around whom renewal, hope and a little sense of excitement can be woven – so much the better if he has a No.9 on his back.

The fledgling Scottish international senses the chance to claim Molineux cult status and is relishing the rapport with the galleries.

Griffiths scored on five minutes and completed the rout with a penalty.

Boss's goal is a hat-trick

DUDLEY team boss Will Pottinger says his side are going for a hat-trick of National League successes this weekend.

Heathens head to Stoke for the National League Fours on Sunday (3.30pm) with Pottinger having already seen Dudley win the National Shield and the NL Pairs.

He said: "The top three were easy to pick. Ashley Morris, Lewis Blackbird and Paul Starke have been brilliant all season. Gareth Isherwood is a former Stoke rider. He had a bad day at the office when he went there with last week.

"When I told him he was in my plans for the Fours he was well and truly up for it."

Group A: King's Lynn, Isle of Wight, Coventry, Mildenhall. Group B: Stoke, Dudley, Buxton, Kent.

Special night to honour Jan O and Big Al



Jan O Pedersen

HEATHENS legends Alan Grahame and Jan O. Pedersen will be honoured for their contribution to the club at a special event later this month.

A celebration of the 1983 Cradley double winning side to commemorate the 30th anniversary is taking place at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Friday, August 23.

Team manager from that season, Peter Adams, is also a special guest and will be sharing his stories from a lifetime in the sport.

The current Dudley Heathens team will be invited to the event, which will also

Speedway

feature 80s music and an auction including a signed 1983 replica Cradley race jacket signed by world champions Pedersen, Erik Gundersen, Billy Hamill and Greg Hancock.

Brochure

There will be a limited edition souvenir brochure will be launched on the night with interviews with all the team, plus previously unseen photographs.

Copies will be available for £5 on the

night as a launch price and then after the price will be £7. Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "This is shaping up to be a good night and we have had a lot of interest in tickets.

"I'm sure there will be lots of great stories from Big Al and Jan O. and we are making a presentation to recognise their contributions to Cradley Heath Speedway.

"And anyone who has never heard Peter Adams speak at one of these events needs to be there – he's hilarious."

Tickets are £10 and available from the online shop at dudleyheathens.co.



Alan Grahame

Robins too good for hosts

West Midlands Regional League Premier Division Wednesday 0 Dudley Town 2

BOTH of the game's goals came in the first half as the visitors proved to be too good for a hard-working Wednesday side.

The Robins went in front in the 24th minute. Robert Whitley headed home after Wednesday skipper Stevie Douglass had headed a Tom Gaad corner to Whitley.

Daniel Newman went close for Wednesday when his 25-yard snap-shot beat Dudley keeper Tom Harper but flew inches wide.

The Robins went 2-0 up in the 40th minute with Dreniz Bala lofting the ball over Wednesday keeper Sam Arnold.

Most of the second half was played in semi-darkness due to floodlight failure as neither side created any worthwhile chances.

In the closing minutes Wednesday created their best chances of the game, substitute Jacob Bunn forced an excellent save from Harper and from Sam Giles' corner Bunn headed wide at the far post.

Stern tests lie in wait for Villa

Villa 3 Malaga 2

VILLA passed their Spanish inquisition but bigger tests lie ahead.

They edged out La Liga side Malaga on Saturday to complete their Premier League preparations.

Christian Benteke's double and Ron Vlaar's header made it a first-half stroll at Villa Park, but Jores Okore's own goal and a Sergi Darder deflected effort ensured the task was tougher.

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YELTZ SHOW CLASS IN TOUGH FRIENDLY

Halesowen Ladies 3 Redditch Ladies 0

HALESOWEN Ladies faced another tough friendly in their battle with premier outfit Redditch.

Halesowen, in their normal style, pressed the visitors early but found a strong Redditch defence which had different ideas. Captain Dani Reade and Sarah Hamill controlled the midfield keeping the ball moving.

There was good work from Lyndsey Glover who saw several shots saved or parried by the excellent Redditch goalkeeper.

Sian Whithall almost broke the deadlock with a low drive and Angie Morley came the closest to beating the keeper but again she pulled off a fine save.

The half ended with neither side being able to find the back of their respective opponent's net.

Defending

Redditch started the second half more brightly and did try to score but were met with solid defending from Dominique McKee, Charlotte Byatt.

Jo Butler and Shel Thomas playing as attacking wingbacks were instrumental in setting up counter attacks.

Halesowen started to control the game and Redditch were left with just hopeful punts up field, but stand-in keeper Lauren Gilberto was always at hand to pick up the pieces.

However, Chloe Harris then had to replace Gilberto due to injury.

Yeltz were now looking for the win but still found a stubborn defence was frustrating their attempts at goal.

Yeltz Ladies

Then winger Katie Moore and Nicola Finlay both came off injured.

Sabrina Dale was still feeling the effects of a pulled muscle so it looked like it wasn't going to be their day.

Morley then cut inside from the left with a powerful shot and again the keeper parried but it fell to striker Gemma Moss who broke the deadlock with a simple tap in.

The Yeltz now were going all the way rather than sitting back.

Speedy striker Rachel Letford gathered the ball from Glover and with a run on the right and at a close angle powered the ball into the net.

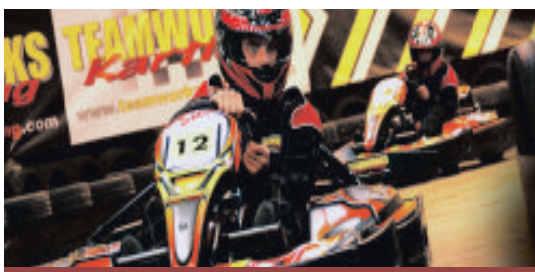
With the final whistle looming Morley picked up the ball on the left and with what became the goal of the game cleverly lifted it around the stranded keeper.

Halesowen had won the game but had left it very late to do it.

Manager Scott McKee said after the match: "We deserved the win. We worked hard and created many chances but credit to the Redditch defence they were the best we have come across so far."



Dani Reade of Halesowen Ladies controlling the ball during the match against Redditch



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